

Suspected Kurdish rebels kill 11 villagers

ANKARA (AP) — Suspected Kurdish guerrillas killed 11 villagers, six of them children, in a nighttime raid on a small hamlet in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Tuesday. The dispatch said the rebels used rocket launchers and machine guns to attack houses in the village of Guney in the township of Simak near the Iraqi border Monday night. Six of the victims were children and three were women, the report said. About 600 civilians and government troops and an almost equal number of Kurdish insurgents have been killed in the fighting in southeast Turkey since 1984. Recently the guerrillas, mostly believed to be members of the Kurdish Labour Party, have concentrated their attacks on tiny hamlets scattered throughout the southeast, killing about 100 farmers in the past three months. An estimated 1.1 million Kurds, out of a total population of 52 million, live in Turkey, most of them in the mountainous southeast region. The Kurdish rebels seek autonomy in the region. Many killings of civilians by Kurdish guerrillas are ostensibly in retaliation for reported collaboration by the local Kurdish population with government forces.

Jordan Times

Amman, Jordan Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان نيوز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

Syrian killed in clash with Amal

BEIRUT (AP) — A Syrian soldier was killed in a clash with Shi'ite Muslim gunmen of the Syrian-backed Amal militia in south Beirut Tuesday, police reported. The gunbattle erupted shortly before the country went on strike against worsening living conditions, the latest in a chain of protests against the country's deteriorating, war-ravaged economy (see page 7). Police said the gunfight between Syrian soldiers and militiamen of the mainstream Amal movement flared on Beirut's airport highway on the city's southern outskirts. A police spokesman said an Amal fighter was also killed and three gunmen were wounded in the clash. He said senior Syrian officers and aides to Amal chieftain Nabih Beirri intervened and contained the 15-minute firefight. It was the first reported clash between Syrian soldiers and the Syrian-backed militia since the Syrians moved into west Beirut Feb. 22 to end fighting between rival militias. The Syrian command in Beirut withheld comment on the report. Syrian soldiers, manning sandbagged checkpoints in west Beirut, later watched as the demonstrators chanted slogans demanding "an end to the war of hunger."

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Arsonists try to burn Jerusalem cars

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Arsonists on Tuesday tried to set fire to more than two dozen cars in a Jewish area of Jerusalem, but a man on his way to morning prayers extinguished the blaze, police said. Police spokesman Rafi Levy said Boaz Yitzhaki discovered a burning gasoline container under one of 28 cars in a parking lot in the Maalot Dafne neighbourhood at dawn. Surrounding the cars were rags soaked with gasoline, Levy said. "The man tried to put the fire out, then called the police," Levy said. From first investigation it appears there was an attempt to set all 28 cars on fire.

Gorbachev still on 'vacation and in good health'

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who has not appeared in public since Aug. 7, is on holiday and is in excellent health, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday. Interest in Mr. Gorbachev's whereabouts mounted after he failed to attend Red Square celebrations on Saturday marking the 840th anniversary of the foundation of Moscow. A report in a West German magazine said he had suffered food poisoning.

NATO warned of 'Iranian threat'

OSLO (R) — A British expert on international affairs has warned NATO members that Iran and its fundamentalist supporters posed a growing terrorist threat to the alliance. Speaking in a debate on terrorism by NATO parliamentarians, the expert, Paul Wilkins, said Iran or pro-Iranian Shi'ites posed NATO countries "by far and away the most serious religious terrorist threat."

Qadhafi invites Adhmi family to live in Libya

ROME (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has invited the family of slain Palestinian cartoonist Najji Ali Adhmi, who was shot on a London street, to live expense-free in Libya, the Libyan news agency (JANA) said Monday. The Libyan dispatch, monitored in Rome, gave no details of Colonel Qadhafi's offer. It hailed Mr. Adhmi for "his clarity of vision into the Palestine Arab struggle" and said he "never lost hope of returning to the occupied homeland." Mr. Adhmi, one of the most controversial journalists in the Middle East, was shot by a lone gunman outside the southwest London office of the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas on July 22. He died at Charing Cross hospital on Aug. 29.

2 Soviet soldiers killed in Libya

MOSCOW (AP) — Two Soviet soldiers who were reported missing on a mission to southern Libya died there in hostilities, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. "We received information to the extent that these two Soviet experts died in the course of hostilities in southern Libya," Foreign Ministry spokesman Boris Pyadyshyev said at a regular news briefing. Chad and Libya have been fighting a desert war in northern Chad that recently has spread at times to southern Libya.

U.S. helicopter blasts mine-laying Iranian boat in Gulf; Reagan defends action and Tehran vows retaliation

Combined agency dispatches

TENSION rose to new heights in the Gulf on Tuesday after a U.S. helicopter attacked an Iranian boat said to have been laying mines in the Gulf waters and Tehran vowed revenge for the attack in which three Iranians were killed and 10 wounded.

American and Iranian naval forces were again on the verge of a clash on Tuesday after a U.S. frigate fired warning shots near a high-speed Iranian hovercraft.

In Washington, President Ronald Reagan defended Monday's U.S. helicopter attack on the Iranian boat which the Pentagon said was caught laying mines near Bahrain.

Iranian political leaders and military commanders refuted the Pentagon report and vowed swift revenge for Monday's attack.

The Defence Department said

tankers in the Gulf last July — during a photo session as he welcomed Costa Rican President Oscar Arias to the White House.

Asked if it would make the Gulf situation more explosive, he replied: "The only one that's contributing to any explosive tendencies in the Persian Gulf is (Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini and the government of Iran."

The president gave a non-committal response when asked if more clashes could now be expected.

"I don't think anyone can predict," he said.

The Pentagon said on Tuesday 26 of the 31 crew of the Iranian ship Iran Ajr were rescued after the 1955 GMT attack — 10 from a lifeboat and 16 from the water.

Four of those on the lifeboat were injured, three of them seriously. Two sailors were missing, it said.

The Pentagon said the boat was spotted by two helicopters based

on the Jarrett, part of a 28-ship U.S. task force in and near the Gulf.

The helicopters used special night-vision equipment to monitor the after-dark activities of the boat, described as a landing craft, it said.

Asked how long the helicopter strike lasted, a defence official said, "seconds."

Asked if any warning was given, he said none was necessary because the boat was caught laying mines in international waters.

"Apparently six mines were laid," the Defence Department said. "(U.S.) Middle East force helicopters are searching for the mines at this time. At least one mine was observed floating in the water."

"Ten mines and various fuses and pins used in arming the mines were found in the landing craft," it added.

While admitting that the ship

disabled in the attack was a military vessel, Tehran rejected U.S. claims that it was sowing mines and demanded the return of the crew.

In an incident on Tuesday, the Jarrett fired warning shots to chase away a fast-approaching Iranian hovercraft while the U.S. warship was towing the Iranian minelayer disabled in Monday's attack, U.S. officials said.

The battered ship was towed towards the Bahrain coast late Tuesday, and at least 10 of its crew were being held aboard the Lusselle, flagship of the navy's Middle East force. Witnesses quoted by AP said they were roped together and guarded by armed sailors.

The hovercraft suddenly approached as the Iran Ajr rode under tow by the Jarrett, triggering a general quarters alert that sent the crews of the American

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Khamenei withholds reply to U.N., uses speech to vow revenge on U.S.

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iranian President Sayyid Ali Khamenei on Tuesday withheld a clear-cut response to the U.N. Security Council's July 20 call for an immediate ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war but vowed revenge on the U.S. for the American helicopter attack on an Iranian ship in the Gulf.

Speaking in the U.N. General Assembly, Mr. Khamenei denied the Iranian ship was a navy vessel laying mines and bo warned the Gulf had turned into a "powder keg."

United States Deputy Ambassador Herbert Okun led a walk-out by his delegation as Mr. Khamenei denounced the attack.

Mr. Khamenei said Washington was in for serious consequences from "this abominable act."

Addressing a packed hall, Mr. Khamenei ignored President Ronald Reagan's appeal in the same forum on Monday for Iran to announce unequivocal acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an immediate ceasefire in Iran's war with Iraq.

Much of his 80-minute speech was devoted to sharp criticism of the council and its alleged lack of impartiality. He repeated Iran's demand for the punishment of Iraq.

The Iraqi delegation was absent while Mr. Khamenei spoke. Mr. Okun and other American delegates listened until the Ira-

U.S. drafting embargo resolution

NEW YORK (R) — The United States has begun drafting a United Nations resolution that would impose an arms embargo on Iran as the belligerent in the Gulf war, Secretary of State George Shultz said on Tuesday.

Mr. Shultz told a news conference that Washington had intensified consultations with U.N. Security Council members on the issue in the aftermath of an American helicopter strike on an Iranian ship said to have been sowing mines in the Gulf.

"There has been work on the drafting process... (we're) beginning to put the words together," Mr. Shultz said.

Iranian leader departed from his prepared text to denounce the American attack near Bahrain.

He referred to the attack as a "very grave and immediate danger provoked by the United States administration through its latest action in the Persian Gulf, which is threatening not only the region but the whole world."

"Yesterday, United States battleships attacked Iran Ajr, an Iranian merchantship. They murdered four and wounded three people. The ship has been seized and its crew has been detained."

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Moscow hails arms pact as result of Gorbachev's reform

MOSCOW (Agencies) — An official Soviet spokesman on Tuesday hailed the new U.S.-Soviet arms agreement as the first major international result of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms.

He was commenting on an agreement in principle reached by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington last week to scrap the superpowers' intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF).

"The Washington agreement is the major result of the process of restructuring affecting international politics," Foreign Ministry spokesman Boris Pyadyshyev told reporters.

A treaty abolishing the missiles, due to be signed by Mr. Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan at a summit later this autumn, would be the first accord on the destruction of an entire category of weapons since the dawn of the nuclear age.

Pyadyshyev said, however, that intensive work remained for Soviet and U.S. negotiators in Geneva who would have to prepare a text for Mr. Shultz and Mr. Shevardnadze to approve at another meeting in Moscow in October.

Seventy pages of the draft document were finished but dif-

ferences remained on the timetable for the global elimination of medium and shorter-range missiles, he said.

Pyadyshyev said measures would also have to be agreed on protecting the environment when the missiles were destroyed.

He said the U.S. warheads on 72 West German Pershing 1-A missiles, at one point a stumbling-block to agreement, would be destroyed in the same way as other U.S. warheads.

Asked to confirm reports that the Moscow meeting between Mr. Shultz and Mr. Shevardnadze would take place on Oct. 20, Pyadyshyev said the treaty should be ready first but be personally signed "nothing against Oct. 20."

Pyadyshyev repeated Moscow's view that the U.S. "Star Wars" project blocked a strategic arms pact.

At the U.N., NATO secretary General Lord Carrington and Mr. Shultz said on Monday that Western allies had overwhelmingly welcomed the emerging U.S.-Soviet INF pact.

Mr. Shultz, appearing with Lord Carrington at a news conference, called the allies' attitude "uniformly enthusiastic."

"There was a general feeling of achievement that this is what the alliance set out to do," he said.

Police investigate multiple shooting in Amman; suspect held

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A man who shot and wounded three men at an Amman area house on Monday has been apprehended by police and is now under investigation at the central police station in Abdali.

Police chief Lieutenant-General Nassouh Mohieddin said Tuesday, Gen. Mohieddin told the Jordan Times that the man, who was identified only as A-J, shot the three men after entering their house in the Sports City area, but that the armed man's three daughters, who were at the same house, escaped unhurt. The three women and the three men, all in their twenties, were put under arrest in addition to the assailant.

Gen. Mohieddin said the criminal court's attorney general visited the scene of the crime and was heading the investigations.

Gen. Mohieddin said police were trying to find a motive for the apparent attempted murder and that he expected police to end

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Soviets are ready to back arms embargo on Iran

BONN (R) — The Soviet Union is prepared to back an arms embargo against Iran and to support an international minesweeping fleet to clear the Gulf, a Soviet Foreign Ministry official was quoted on Tuesday as saying.

The West German magazine Stern quoted Middle East specialist Alexander Ivanov-Golyzin as saying: "If one side in the conflict does not fulfil the U.N. resolution, we will support all appropriate measures, such as perhaps an embargo on arms."

He said Moscow would not back arms sanctions against Iraq.

In addition, the Soviet Union would be prepared to support an international group of minesweepers under United Nations supervision, he told the magazine in an interview released ahead of publication.

Stern said Mr. Ivanov-Golyzin was head of the Gulf section in the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

In July, the Soviet Union joined the United States and the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in adopting Resolution 598, which demands an immediate ceasefire in the seven-year-old Gulf war and threatens sanctions if the warring parties refuse to stop fighting.

President Ronald Reagan told

the U.N. General Assembly on Monday that Iran would face enforcement measures unless it unequivocally agreed to a ceasefire.

Iraq has said it would abide by the council's ceasefire order if Iran did, too, but Iran laid down conditions for compliance that Baghdad said were unacceptable.

Stern quoted the Soviet official as saying Moscow would reject sanctions against Iraq.

Enforcement would "only be applied against the side that rejects the resolution and Iraq is ready for peace now," he said.

He said a truce without a comprehensive solution to the conflict, from which either side could easily break out, was not sufficient. Iraq, which receives arms supplies from Moscow, feared Iran would continue to "occupy parts of its territory," he said.

Mr. Ivanov-Golyzin was quoted as saying the only way to guarantee the safety of international shipping in the Gulf was to end the war. The United States fleet was simply aggravating the situation, he said.

The foreign ministers of the Soviet Union, the United States, France, China and Britain — all permanent members of the council — will meet U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Friday.

Jordan seeks help from armistice panel against Israeli curbs on bridge crossings

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian authorities are currently holding contacts with the Joint Jordanian-Israeli Armistice Commission in an effort to overcome obstacles placed by the Israeli authorities on the travel of Palestinians across the Jordan River bridges.

Mr. Mohammad Al Udwan, director of the Inspection and Follow-up Department at the Ministry of Interior, announced Tuesday.

Mr. Udwan said that contacts in this respect were being made upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein in the hope of maintaining open bridges with the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to foil Israel's attempts to evict the Palestinians from their homeland.

Mr. Udwan said the Israeli authorities have been obstructing the travel of Palestinian people across the bridges to the East

Bank. The Israelis are refusing to recognise spouses of Palestinians living on the West Bank and Gaza and so denying them the right to be included in the family re-union programme, he said.

Israel is also refusing to allow children above five years of age to cross into the occupied territory without a separate permit and a separate passport, he added. All these measures, Mr. Udwan said, are bound to create more difficulties for the Arab population and their relatives and families and also visitors to the occupied territories.

In addition, he said, the Israeli authorities have been placing conditions on certain groups of Arab people upon leaving the West Bank like asking them not to return home before the elapse of certain periods of time. Those under 26 years of age leaving the

West Bank for the East Bank are not allowed to return home before the elapse of nine months, Mr. Udwan said.

The Israeli authorities have recently introduced a new measure by which Arabs from the occupied lands working abroad should return home and personally submit request for renewing permits of travel abroad. This measure adds to the burdens of the Arab population, Mr. Udwan noted.

Earlier, the Israeli authorities used to renew such permits for three years without requesting the personal presence of the applicant, he said.

He said the Israeli authorities had been trying to coerce some people and pressure them to collaborate with the occupation authorities by threatening to deny them the right to return to their homes in the West Bank.

American Jewish Congress backs call for int'l peace conference

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The American Jewish Congress (AJC), in a break with Israel's official foreign policy, has called for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The 50,000-member group — a mainstream, secular organisation that almost invariably supports Israeli policies — said Monday it feared Israel would lose its character as a Jewish state if it continues to keep a growing number of Arabs under military occupation or tries to absorb them as citizens.

"Israelis in the West Bank and Gaza are perceived as hostile occupiers," said the statement.

"And continued Israeli rule of a resentful Arab population must lead to repressive measures that, in the long run, cannot but distort and corrupt the values we associate with a Jewish state."

However, an international conference could only be convened, the congress said, if Israel is given "reasonable assurances" that participants will recognise Israel; rapid movement toward direct negotiations between Israel and Arab participants, and free Jewish emigration from the Jewish Union, which would be a participant in such a meeting.

The statement was adopted by an overwhelming majority of the congress' 220-member national governing council on Sept. 13, but was released Monday.

The Israeli government has been split over the concept of an international peace conference. Official policy is set by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who

along with his rightist Likud coalition opposes such a conference. They say it could lead to the imposition of "dangerous peace terms" on Israel.

The Israeli embassy in Washington refused to comment on the AJC statement, which was criticised by some Jewish leaders.

"There are strongly divergent views, both in Israel and the United States, about the wisdom and nature of an international peace conference," said Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations.

"The people and the government of Israel have the responsibility for the safety of the state and therefore they must make their decision through a democratic process."

Shamir comes under attack for foiling Palestinian-Likud dialogue for peace

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli leftists and Palestinians accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Tuesday of sabotaging months of secret talks in which members of his Likud bloc exchanged position papers with Arabs on a solution to the Palestinian problem.

The contacts, carried out over the last several months, were viewed as significant because they were the first known meetings between right-wing Israeli politicians and Palestinians identified with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

An 11-point document drawn up by Moshe Amirav, a member of the central committee of Mr. Shamir's party, was published in the daily Haaretz newspaper Tuesday. Mr. Amirav said it was based on the Likud's known



Sari Nusseibeh

programme and called for three years of "self-rule" as an interim solution and, as a final settlement, a confederation between Jordan, as a predominantly Palestinian state, and Israel.

"In the meetings, conducted over the course of a number of months, the plan was in fact adopted, which I consider an accomplishment," Mr. Amirav wrote in Haaretz. He said earlier neither Mr. Shamir nor other Likud leaders had any connection with the talks.

At a news conference in Arab Jerusalem, Member of Parliament Charlie Biton of the Communist Party distributed copies of papers he said were presented during meetings in August.

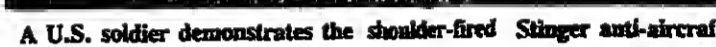
In a five-point paper, Palestinians called for establishing of an independent Palestinian state in exchange for PLO recognition of Israel's right to exist within safe and recognised borders.

Mr. Biton banded out what he said was a document presented by

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Foundation organises events for children

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) is organising next month various activities for the benefit of children in different parts of the Kingdom to mark Arab Child Day.

The activities, to be held between Oct. 5 and 10, were discussed and approved by a preparatory committee meeting Tuesday chaired by NHF Director Mrs. In'am Al Mufti.

The committee, comprised of 15 members representing the private and public sectors, also endorsed the formation of subcommittees to operate in different parts of the country under the supervision of the respective governors, according to a press release by the NHF.

The activities, the release said, will include seminars on educating children and children's health, as well as exhibitions of artwork by children up to the age



Mrs. In'am Al Mufti of 15 from private and government schools.

According to the release, there will also be recreational programmes, in which brass bands from the armed forces and children's musical troupes will participate, in addition to puppet shows, competitions, and other festivities in the children's gardens.

Red Cross official to review operations here

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mr. Michael Conners, director of operations of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) arrived in Amman Tuesday on a three-day visit to hold talks with Dr. Ahmad Abu Oqura, president of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS).

The talks will cover general ICRC activities in cooperation with national societies in the Arab region and operations related to the occupied Arab territories, in particular, according to a spokesman for the JNRCS.

He said that the ICRC official arrived in Amman from a tour of the Gulf region, and will be leaving for Geneva at the end of the visit, during which he will familiarise himself with JNRCS activities in Jordan.

Agricultural marketing firm to receive credit facilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Syrian-Jordanian Bank will grant the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) credit facilities reaching a ceiling of JD 6 million to help cover the cost of its projects, in accordance with an agreement signed in Amman Tuesday.

The loan will be used primarily to pay farmers for carrying out JAMPCO projects, and to provide sufficient liquid assets to help the company to carry out other schemes, according to JAMPCO Director Ghazi Abu Hassan. He said that the farmers are on contract to produce specific types of products to be exported or marketed locally, and the funds are necessary to help the farmers carry on with their work.

JAMPCO intends to honour all of its financial commitments to farmers on schedule, and hopes that the farmers will also abide by their commitments and deliver crops on time, Mr. Abu Hassan noted. He said JAMPCO is also striving to open more markets for Jordanian products abroad in a bid to bolster the national economy. JAMPCO normally purchases locally-produced crops to market in Jordan and abroad, and also organises the importation of agricultural products which are needed in the local market. In addition, JAMPCO has been marketing Jordan's crops in the Gulf countries, Syria, Lebanon, and in the countries of the European Community.

Ports corporation awards contracts to local firms

AQABA (Petra) — The Jordanian Ports Corporation (JPC) on Tuesday awarded eight local companies contracts to carry out a number of projects undertaken by the JPC at the cost of JD 1.8 million.

The contracts are for setting up a communications station on the Aqaba shore, three open hangars

for storing goods, two closed warehouses, and for drawing up designs and preparing documents for building JPC offices at the port.

The contracts were signed by JPC Director-General Eid Al Fayez and representatives of the local companies.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Khayyat tours restoration sites

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Tuesday visited archaeological sites where Islamic remains have been found. He toured the Abu Obeida burial site Tabaqat Fahl, and requested the restoration work proceed at a quicker pace. The minister also visited a breeding project for producing honey set up on a land in the Jordan Valley owned by the ministry. The JD 70,000 project is being carried out in three phases and will be completed in the coming year. By then, a total of 300 beehives will have been installed to produce honey, according to Mr. Mohammad Dabbas from the Ministry of Agriculture, who accompanied Sheikh Khayyat on the visit.

Haj Hassan to attend N. Yemen celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in celebrations marking the silver jubilee of North Yemen's revolution due to open in Sana'a on Sept. 25. An announcement here said that an official delegation led by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khalaf Al Haj Hassan will attend the celebrations at the invitation of the North Yemeni government. Mr. Haj Hassan will hold talks with Yemeni officials on bolstering Jordanian-North Yemeni relations.

Cities receive loans for development

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cities and Villages Development Bank has consented to offer Irbid Municipality a JD 50,000 loan to finance the construction of office, stores, and a car park in Irbid. The bank has also decided to provide a JD 19,731 loan to the village of Rakin in Karak Governorate. The loan will pay the cost of projects being carried out by local contractors.

Geology delegation returns from meetings

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan took part in the meetings of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Geologists Federation (AGF), which was concluded in Baghdad Tuesday. In the three-day meetings, Jordan's delegation, led by Mr. Ali Abu Rabih, participated in discussions which included planning for the upcoming general Arab geologists conference due to be held in the Iraqi capital on Oct. 10.

Irbid students to undergo health survey

IRBID (Petra) — The Department of Health in Irbid Governorate has decided to conduct a medical survey on 20,000 male and female school students in the governorate, Mr. Ali Ghoul, the department director, announced here Tuesday. He said that the survey is needed to determine the level of iodine in the students. Any drop in the level could cause dilation in the thyroid gland, Dr. Ghoul said.

Multi-purpose survey planned by Statistics Department

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Statistics has embarked on a general survey to determine the volume of the work force in Jordan, the number of homes available to them, and health services provided to the population.

A department spokesman said that the multi-purpose survey will be conducted in the East Bank of Jordan, and it is hoped that detailed information will be extracted from this project.

"We hope to get data about the population, in general, and those actively employed in any economic activity, in particular," the spokesman said. He said that the results of the survey could give general indications about poverty in the Kingdom, and show relationships between demographic and economic changes.

This survey, he added, will help planners to draw up policies pertaining to the local labour market, unemployment, involvement of Jordanian women in economic activity, nutrition and health, and poverty pockets.

The study could also reveal fertility and mortality rates, marriage rates, the number of children, the average income of the Jordanian family, and other aspects of economic and social life in the Kingdom, the spokesman noted.

Resources authority announces drillings

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) announced Tuesday that its technical teams are currently involved in drilling exploratory wells in a number of regions in the Kingdom to determine and, later, tap underground energy resources.

An NRA spokesman said that the search is particularly directed

Hamzeh outlines health services for delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh on Tuesday conferred with a team representing the East Mediterranean Consultative Committee on Health Affairs.

Addressing the delegation Dr. Hamzeh outlined his ministry's programmes for increasing health services and upgrading health research projects, in cooperation with universities and scientific research centres in Jordan and in other Arab countries.

The minister voiced the Ministry of Health's interest in promoting research work in health affairs, with all means available, backing the committee efforts, and benefiting from its programmes and recommendations.

The team which is affiliated

with the World Health Organisation (WHO) voiced its appreciation and admiration of the health services and medical education in Jordan as well as its large number of health researchers. The delegation added that these factors would help Jordan attain the goal of providing primary health care for all people in the Kingdom by the year 2000, as called for by the United Nations and the WHO.

The team also expressed appreciation to Dr. Hamzeh for his own efforts in directing health services, and in outlining Jordan's programmes at the latest WHO conference.

The meeting at the Health Ministry was attended by its directors of health care, planning, training, and research services.



Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh confers with a team representing the East Mediterranean Consultative Committee on Health Affairs during a Tuesday meeting to discuss health matters in the Kingdom.

Resources authority announces drillings

at finding gas and hot mineral water resources, which could be exploited for the production of electricity by means of special generator units to be built in cooperation with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA). The technology is being utilised successfully in a number of countries, such as the Philippines, Italy, and Indonesia, the spokesman said.

The disclosure about the drilling followed another announcement by the NRA that a team will be going to Algeria by the end of the month to look into the country's experience in exploring for gas and in manufacturing equipment used in exploration operations.

Handicraft exhibit to benefit liver patients

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Opening Thursday at the Amra Hotel is an exhibition organised by the Society of the Friends of Liver Patients. Entitled "Creative Hands Exhibition," the event will include the work of many local artists, such as Ziad Al Jundi, Jamal Badran, Fauzia Farouki, Hatouf Hijazi, Tabaa, who will be selling her silk paintings, and Latifah Abu Hamdan, who will be displaying her tiny trees made from semi-precious stones.

In addition to the more traditional handicrafts, there will be all kinds of foods, supplied by the various embassies.

Lottery prizes include plane tickets to Los Angeles, Geneva, and Aqaba, as well as jewelry, cassettes, mixers, and clocks. All of the proceeds from the exhibition will go to help implement the many projects and goals of the society, which, since its foundation in 1984, has been able to assist many patients suffering from liver ailments with their hospital bills.

The society also sponsors seminars and research work in the field of diseases of the liver and is currently involved with the setting up of a vaccination project.

Italian journalists learn that Jordan is a peaceful country

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Palestinian problem will develop into a bigger and more complicated international conflict if a total and peaceful solution is not found, according to Deputy Minister of Information, Mr. Michael Hamareh.

Addressing a group of Italian journalists on Tuesday, Mr. Hamareh reiterated Jordan's position that calls for the convening of an international peace conference under United Nations auspices.

Mr. Hamareh explained that, since 1948, Jordan has been a peaceful country and that it has always spoken of peace in both the Arab and international arenas. "We believe in a total and just peace in the Middle East. By total peace, we mean that all Arab parties involved, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), should be included in peace negotiations," Mr. Hamareh stated.

He added that, if negotiations occur only bilaterally between Jordan and Israel, there will be no true peace in the Middle East. Mr. Hamareh gave the Camp David accord between Egypt and Israel as an example, saying that it not only alienated Egypt from the rest of the Arab World, but it also facilitated the Israeli invasion of South Lebanon.

Mr. Hamareh explained to

the journalists, who had been invited by Alitalia in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities in order to acquaint themselves with the country, that Jordan is a peaceful and secure country, despite the conflicts occurring in neighbouring nations. He assured the Italian press team that it is completely safe for tourists to visit Jordan, although the Italian public has the idea that Jordan is in an actual state of war.

Sixteen journalists from leading political newspapers and travel magazines in Italy are in Jordan for a five-day visit in order to promote Italian tourism in the country. Mr. Giulio Penteriani, international product manager of Alitalia, said that introducing the reporters to Jordan is the first phase in the promotion of tourism here. "The main factor that hinders the Italian tourist flow in Jordan is the misconception that the country is in a war zone. When these journalists go back and write about this peaceful country, then we've succeeded in the first phase of attracting the Italian travellers," Mr. Penteriani told the Jordan Times.

According to an official at the Ministry of Information, Italian tourists here have doubled since last year.

And, as Mr. Hamareh earlier told the reporters, the first Italian tourists in Jordan came 2000 years ago — the Roman army.

U.S. helicopter blasts Iranian boat in Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

ships scrambling to battle stations. The hovercraft stopped about 1,000 metres from the Lasalle and talked to the Americans by radio, according to Mark Duncan, an AP photographer in a Pentagon news pool aboard the 13,600-tonne flagship at the time.

He said the Americans warned the hovercraft that it was in a danger area and to "stand off." Pentagon officials said the hovercraft, which rides on a cushion of air just above the water, ignored a radio command to stay clear of the U.S. ships.

The Jarrett then fired warning shots at the craft, which turned away, they said.

Just before the hovercraft had been allowed to tour the disabled ship, where Duncan said they saw a number of mines on the deck, ready to be dropped in the water.

Parts of the 60-metre landing craft were riddled by gunfire and there were blood smears in one passageway, he said.

Rear Admiral Harold J. Benson, commander of the Middle East force, said the Iranians had laid six of the horned contact-type devices before the gunships moved in on them, Duncan reported.

Monday's attack took place in the central Gulf, about 80

kilometres northeast of Bahrain. The Pentagon said 26 others were rescued, four of them wounded.

Iran's parliament speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, and military commanders, vowed revenge.

In a speech broadcast by Tehran Radio, Mr. Rafsanjani declared that the United States "will regret the crime."

The radio also quoted Mohsen Rezaei, commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps, as saying the U.S. attack was "certainly the start of a direct war... by America against our people."

He declared: "We will deliver a firm response... a decisive blow against the Americans."

At the White House, Mr. Reagan said the United States "did what was authorised by law anywhere in international waters."

A spokeswoman later said the detained Iranian crewmen would be returned to Iran "as soon as possible," but that the arrangements had yet to be made.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said pictures had been taken on the mine-laying boat and would be placed before the United Nations as evidence of Iran's role and what he called the threat to the international community. He said reporters would be allowed to examine the boat.

On July 24, the Kuwaiti super-

King receives Moroccan message

(Continued from page 1)

British charge d'affaires His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the King's personal representative, and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem returned to Amman with the King.

Shortly after his return, the King received a message from King Hassan II of Morocco. The message was delivered to the King at the Al Nadwa Palace by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Al Filali.

In his message, King Hassan expressed his country's support for King Hussein's efforts for achieving solidarity among Arab

countries and holding an Arab summit meeting in Amman, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said the King and Mr. Filali discussed the question of building a unified Arab and Islamic stand to support current efforts being made to end the Gulf conflict.

The meeting revealed an identity of Moroccan-Jordanian views on the need for exerting more efforts to make joint Arab action a success and unify Arab endeavours in the face of common challenges and dangers, Petra said.

One of his three daughters took the gun and fled from the house. She was later arrested in Zarqa, and the gun was seized by police.

"Without any doubt, all those involved in the attack need to be investigated," Gen. Muhiuddin said. "Perhaps we will have something to tell you in two days. We still have to take the testimony of witnesses."

The police chief added that "at this point, giving further information could harm the investigations."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan discusses the activities of the Amman-based Arab League organisations during a Tuesday meeting with the organisations' secretaries general (Petra photo).

Crown Prince reviews Arab League organisations' plans, activities with directors

Prince studies chemical complex reports

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday conferred with secretaries general of the Amman-based Arab League organisations at a meeting in which the secretaries outlined the development, activities, and future plans of their respective organisations.

During the meeting, Prince Hassan expressed his understanding of the various issues and difficulties dealt with by the organisations, and voiced Jordan's readiness to extend all possible support to help these groups coordinate their activities, as well as carry out their individual programmes.

The meeting, which took place at the Prime Ministry, was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Minister of Industry, Trade, and Supply Rajai Munasher.

Later on Tuesday, Prince Hassan chaired a meeting at the Prime Ministry to discuss studies on complementary industries to

be set up at the projected chemical complex near the Dead Sea. The complex is to be constructed at the southern tip of the Dead Sea, near the Arab Potash Company's plants.

A feasibility study on the projects involved was prepared by the Jordan Engineering Chemical Industries Company (JECICO). The meeting reviewed the study, which provides for the use of "tar sand," which could supply fuel for the plants and other aspects of the projected scheme.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Rifai, and the ministers of industry, trade, and supply, finance, energy and mineral resources, as well as the economic advisor to Prince Hassan, the economic advisor to the prime minister, and the chairman of JECICO's board of directors.

Dudin meets Canadian church group

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin on Tuesday met with a delegation representing the Council of Churches in Canada and spoke about the Palestine problem and Israel's occupation of Arab land.

The minister explained the Jordanian-sponsored social and economic development plan for the occupied Arab territory, and said that it aims at providing basic

and essential services to the Arab population living under Israeli rule. The plan, he said, is also designed to help the Arab people to hold on to their land and to resist the arbitrary measures taken against them by the Israeli occupation authorities.

The minister briefed the visiting delegation on the Jordanian government's assistance in cooperation with the United Nations

Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to the Palestine refugees in their camps.

Mr. Dudin urged the international community to help find a just solution to the Palestine problem on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242.

The meeting was attended by the ministry's under secretary Dr. Ahmad Qatanani.

Petrochemicals workshop aims for pan-Arab marketing strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day workshop has opened at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to study problems encountered in marketing Arab petrochemical products and the prospect of adopting a pan-Arab strategy to ensure continued sale of these products abroad.

The workshop has been organised by the RSS in cooperation with the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) and the Baghdad-based United Nations Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Kamel Jabbar, the ESCWA

representative at the meeting, addressed the delegates, outlining the importance of the petrochemicals industry. He said that Arab oil-producing countries now possess huge petrochemical plants selling products at fairly competitive prices. These products have been competing with similar foreign products on international markets, in view of the relatively low cost of oil produced in the Arab World, and their revenues have been serving as substitute for those accrued from the sale of crude oil, Mr. Jabbar noted.

He said that ESCWA, in coop-

eration with the AOID, has embarked on a joint study for marketing petrochemical products in the Arab World, and the present workshop is a part of the study.

RSS Vice-President Dr. Arafat Tamimi said that producing and marketing petrochemical products is an aspect of the scientific and technological challenges confronting the Arab World. He said that the Arab countries, like the rest of the Third World nations, should find means for protecting their products from foreign competition. Dr. Tamimi also spoke about the RSS technological programmes.

King receives Moroccan message

(Continued from page 1)

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He knocked on the door

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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No surprise; what next?

YESTERDAY'S U.S. helicopter strike against an Iranian vessel which had been laying mines near Bahrain, and the Iranian attack against a British ship, should not come as a surprise development in the aggravating Gulf crisis of the past several weeks. The incidents, which will surely raise the temperature of the confrontation in the Gulf to a record high, had been in the making for sometime now; and if anybody is surprised by their occurrence, it is because not enough thought or attention had been given to the developments in the Gulf crisis since its inception seven years ago.

For the Americans to clash with the Iranians, and for British and other ships to be targeted by sea-borne, armed Revolutionary Guards, may be due to extended American and international inaction and apathy towards the Gulf war. But that is not the important point now. What happened yesterday, and what is likely to happen from now on, indicates a new situation for everybody to grapple with; and the way the international community deals with the newest developments should be the most important focus of our attention. The history of the crisis in the Gulf is indeed long and complicated. But a quick, objective look at it can easily point us to the simple equation that governs the conflict there today. The equation is that while Iraq wants to end its war with Iran, Tehran insists on continuing the war and is ready to do anything in its power to carry on fighting until the bitter end.

Everything, or at least almost everything, has been attempted to make the regime in Tehran change its stance and pursue a peaceful settlement with Iraq and the other Arab Gulf countries. Nothing thus far has worked, and the only alternative left is to put pressure on the Iranians to reduce their obstinacy and listen to the voice of reason in their regional and international dealings. If this pressure means blasting those vessels and Revolutionary Guards who plant mines and attack ships in the Gulf, so be it. If it means imposing an arms and economic boycott against Iran, the sooner it is done, the better. Iran's obstinacy and rejectionism have left us all with a situation where the international community cannot go back on its decision, as expressed in U.N. Resolution 598, to end the Iran-Iraq war as quickly as possible. There is no way now, other than to tell the Iranian leaders, straightforwardly and unequivocally, that they must stop their blackmailing and bullying of their neighbours, and the rest of the world, or else face a showdown with them all. At first glance, this might seem to be an unnecessarily confrontational and dangerous stance to take with the Iranians. But on a second and more profound thought, it looks as if it is the only option we have.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: A matter for leadership

UNANIMOUS agreement among Arab foreign ministers on holding an Arab summit meeting reflects deep awareness of the dangers posed against this Arab Nation and a show of determination to benefit from past experience and events. The foreign ministers have shown clearly that they realise the underlying causes of the present weakness of the Arab World and that they were determined to contribute towards healing rifts that separated one country from another. An Arab summit means a consensus on the means we require to translate our words into action and to concert and coordinate our efforts and our resources in a useful dialogue leading to total agreement on issues of paramount importance to the whole nation. The foreign ministers have decided to hold the summit meeting in Amman so that the Arab leaders can discuss all aspects of the Gulf war and ways to pool Arab countries' resources for confronting the Israeli enemy militarily and politically. Perhaps this will serve as the first agreement among Arab states leading to more concerted steps towards ending the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Palestine problem. There is no doubt that the Palestine issues continues to remain on the minds of the Arab people and their leaders since it is the crux of all issues plaguing the Arab region. There is no doubt also that the Arab leaders are obsessed by the Lebanese problem for which they want to find a lasting solution that can end the sufferings of the Lebanese people. Let us hope that the extraordinary summit in Amman will lead to holding a much delayed summit in Riyadh; and let us hope that these summits will eventually restore solidarity among Arab countries.

Al Dustour: Rallying for peace

THERE is no doubt that the Gulf war continues to irk the international community in general and the Arab countries in particular. This is manifest in the series of speeches being delivered by heads of delegations at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The speeches clearly point to the fact that this conflict, the worst problem existing in the world at present, should end and its threats to world security and peace should be terminated. The heads of world delegations including U.S. President Ronald Reagan have all emphasised the need of finding a solution for the problem which has been aggravating, and causing increased tension around the world. The head of the international community, the secretary general of the United Nations, paid a visit to the Gulf region on the eve of the U.N. General Assembly meetings, urging both sides to adhere to the call for ceasefire, as provided for in Security Council Resolution 598 and as supported by the members of the United Nations organisation. The speeches at the General Assembly and the work and the efforts of the secretary general together with the on-going behind-the-scenes consultations and contacts all show clearly the desire by world nations to see an end to the war and its tragedies. We hope that the General Assembly and the secretary general will arrive at a formula that would put an end to the war and lead to negotiations for a just peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Most of issues on agenda

THE Arab countries realise too well the dimension of the common danger posed against them and they also know the difficult task awaits in the Arab leaders at their summit in Amman in November. These leaders are confronted with major issues of destiny and are expected to take measures to restore solidarity among their countries. The unanimous agreement among Arab foreign ministers to hold the summit in Amman came to illustrate the Arab countries' realisation of the dangers and the threats awaiting them all if they remain weak and in disarray. The coming summit is for the Arabs the common denominator that unifies their ranks and puts them face to face with their responsibilities.

How the Arab Order turned away from unity

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite the regional divisions legitimised by the 1945 Arab League's charter, a pan-Arab nationalist tide swept the Arab World in the two decades which followed. Nevertheless, the influence and the dominance of the pan-Arab movements and governments failed to achieve the aspired Arab unity. Instead, internal and external factors and given interactions to finally enhance and deepen Arab differences; thus, on the eve of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the Arab World was in real disarray and a second defeat was all but imminent.

This historical perspective of the last four decades of developments in the Arab World was contained in a paper prepared by Jordanian historians as part of the discussions of the First Arab Strategic Conference that concluded its sessions in Amman last week.

The research, covering the period from 1945 to 1967, was part of a more comprehensive paper entitled "The Arab Regional Order from a Historical Perspective." The first two parts, covered in the Jordan Times on Sunday, explored the evolution and the development of the fundamental ideas and factors which shaped the modern Arab Order in the period between the wake of the nineteenth century to 1945.

The main argument of the first part was that the modern Arab Order, as expressed in the political framework of the Arab League, was a compromise between the popular Arab aspiration for unity and independence and the interests of the Western colonial powers, especially Britain and France, in the region. The two colonial forces, which by 1945 were under mounting pressures to grant independence to their former colonies, had sought a formula to "ensure the continuation of their interests in the area." Thus, the Arab League Charter, which materialised the final compromise, legitimised Arab "nation-state" divisions and fell short of including Arab unity as an objective.

The third research picked up from that point to analytically review the evolution of the Arab Order, taking into consideration the "inherent shortcomings of the

league's charter," and outlined that external and internal factors which have effected the development of the Arab Order.

The factors cited include: the rivalry between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, following the demise of the colonial grip of Britain and France in the late fifties and early sixties, the foundation of the state of Israel in 1948, and the regional and international implications of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In addition, the following factors are cited: the emergence, rise and "fall" of strong pan-Arab and leftist parties, the ideological polarisation that characterised the Arab World in the fifties and the sixties, the individual Arab states' regional and international alliances, the foundation of the Palestinian armed movement and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and the Iranian Islamic revolution and its subsequent war with Iraq.

The third paper, prepared by President of Mu'ta Military University Professor Ali Mahafzah and Dr. Hussein Al Momani from the University of Jordan Centre for Strategic Studies, described the post-World War II period as that "of independence and a consequent dominance of a strong pan-Arab nationalist tide."

The first 15 years after the war had also witnessed the fall of the Egyptian and Iraqi monarchies and the ascendancy of pan-Arab nationalist, revolutionary parties who came to rule Iraq, Syria, and Egypt. This "overwhelming" pan-Arab nationalist tide, which particularly stirred and inspired the Arab masses regardless of the respective stands of the ruling governments, however, failed in uniting the Arab World.

In the paper, the writers present highly-opinionated arguments concerning the factors which hampered the achievement of Arab unity and which, finally, led to furthering the deep divisions and weakness that culminated in the 1967 Arab defeat.

The creation of Israel in 1948, in the bigger part of Palestine, was a catalyst which unified, to some extent, the sentiments of the Arab masses and was declared the most important common denominator among the various Arab regimes. Yet, it was the respective stands and approaches to the Palestinian

cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict which became a major source of division and hostility among the Arab governments. Thus, the Arab governments were accordingly split into two camps.

The "conservative" camp was led by the Hashemites in Iraq at the beginning, but with the toppling of the monarchy in a military coup in 1958, Saudi Arabia took over the leadership of this faction.

The second "progressive" camp emerged following the July 23, 1952 Revolution in Egypt when the revolutionary government soon became the unrivalled leader of pan-Arab nationalist governments and trends in the Arab World.

Rivalry and competition between the two camps were further fuelled by the mounting foreign pressures on these governments to join the orbit of one of the two superpowers.

Although the writers indicate that both the Soviet Union and the U.S. were exerting pressures on the Arab governments to increase their influence in the area, all of the specific examples cited are those which reflected the growing American presence in the region.

As the paper shows, the cold war era between the superpowers had a great influence on the Arab World, and there was more than one attempt to form a Western-backed regional "defence organisation" to contain the "Soviet influence."

Naturally, the Arab governments were sharply divided on these Western proposals for regional defence pacts; for, while some "conservative" regimes, particularly pre-1958 Iraq, welcomed the idea, it was vehemently rejected by Egypt and the camp of "progressives" which it led.

According to the writers, the anti-Communist policies which characterised the policies of the "conservative" countries reflected religiously-rooted rejection of Communism as an atheistic ideology and anger "at the Socialist bloc's role in supporting the creation of the Zionist state."

The paper does not try to give an explanation for the same "conservative" governments growing links and friendship with the West and the U.S. in particular, although, in one part, it refers to a "strong general Arab resent-

ment to the West (without specification)... due to the latter's support to Israel." This polarisation between East and West is further widened as Egypt under late President Jamal Abdul Nasser and Syria started purchasing Soviet weapons and signed cooperation treaties with Moscow.

In its treatment of the divisions among the Arab governments, which reflected ideological differences as well as the growing competition between the Soviet Union and the U.S., the paper stresses the following conclusions about that period:

— The paper points out that the "progressive" camp was able to exert a greater influence on the masses, through its pan-Arab pro-Palestinian rhetoric and its effective use of the media. In that period, Egypt, and particularly President Nasser, emerged as the unrivalled Arab nationalist leader, albeit his influence was beginning to "decline" in the few years prior to 1967.

— The paper accuses the "progressive" regimes of being a destabilising factor in the Arab Order: "The main concern of the (progressives) was to destabilise the regimes of the conservative group, while this second group found itself in self-defensive position and continuously trying to prevent the penetration and the spread of the first group's influence."

Dr. Mahafzah's analysis echoes similar conclusions made by other Jordanian historians who have consistently blamed Egypt and Nasser for the period of unrest which prevailed in Jordan in 1957 and for the appearance of strong pro-Nasserite and leftist Jordanian parties in that same period.

The paper, however, provoked some rather strong reactions from a number of Egyptian, Kuwaiti, and even Jordanian intellectuals who took part in the conference.

Their responses included defence of Nasser's and Egypt's roles as "representative of the Arab national will" and their "positive influence on the Arabs everywhere." Some participants, however, stressed that, despite Egypt's most significant national role in that period, the regime did have a number of serious negative aspects particularly "regarding its failure to entrench and institutionalise democratic practices (in Egypt)... and, instead, it destroyed the concept of political

parties in the country."

— The paper also stresses that the ideological diversity contributed "to weakening the Arab Order and paralysing its efficiency." The writers divided the Arab ideological parties into two categories: a right wing "conservative" group, and a "left-wing progressive group which sought independence." The first group included the Muslim Brotherhood, other Islamic associations, and the Islamic Liberation Party. The second category included the Communist parties, the pan-Arab nationalist parties, the Ba'athist parties, Arab Nationalist Movement, and "other pro-Nasserite groups."

Again, this analysis sparked a debate in the conference. Some participants, especially former Nasserites, nationalists, and even independents, who call for the freedom of the formation of political parties resented such a conclusion. One of the participants commented, "Diversity in the ideological trends in any nation or country is a natural and a healthy sign."

During his presentation of the paper, Dr. Mahafzah said that, at one stage, the U.S. backed Saudi Arabian plans, albeit unsuccessfully, to form "an Islamic alliance." A distinguished thinker, who was one of the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood in the fifties in Egypt, later resented what he called some "historians' tendency" to always link Islamic movements with U.S. plans. "But that was what the U.S. actually did. I am sorry; but what can I do about that? Do you want me to change history?" Dr. Mahafzah answered jokingly.

Another important point emphasised by the paper was that, during that period, the military came to play an unprecedented role in determining the political systems of Arab governments, especially in Egypt, Iraq, and Syria. According to the writers, the rise in the power of the military in political life reflected the weakening of the Arab political system as a consequence of its defeat and inability to stop the foundation of Israel at the expense of Palestinian and Arab rights. Consequently, the pan-Arab tide, which endorsed armed struggle at least in theory, contributed to strengthening the power and enhancing the prestige of the military, who were also strongly

influenced by this ideology.

Although the paper refers favourably to the several unity experiences among various Arab countries, it does not explore in detail the reasons which actually led to the failure of those attempts that also characterised that period. Towards the end of the paper, the writers point out the formation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in 1964 and the emergence of the Fatah guerrilla movement in 1965. The two developments are referred to as negative features of that era. For, while the first was "used by Egypt and the (progressive camp) against Jordan... the Arab Order was put a little bit off balance by the emergence of Fatah."

Such a critical assessment of the PLO and the armed Palestinian movement has been repeatedly voiced by a number of Arab nationalist thinkers, especially in late sixties and early seventies, who have argued adamantly that the Palestinian cause should remain an Arab national cause and that the formation of the PLO had reduced it to "regional Palestinian issue."

Dr. Mahafzah, however, steered away from committing himself to any ideological explanation, but implied that the foundation of the PLO and the formation of the other Palestinian armed resistance movements deepened the prevailing contradictions and divisions.

In general, the paper argues that, while the period witnessed the crystallisation of a pan-Arabist ideology, which could have served as a catalyst for Arab unity, other external and internal factors intervened to prevent this, including, as the writers imply, the attitudes of the proponents of this ideology. These factors ultimately prevailed, and, by the eve of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the Arab Order was still divided and unable to prevent another defeat.

Furthermore, the Arab League had proved its inability to act as a unification framework and failed to solve inter-Arab differences. As a result, most of the efforts to amend its charter foundered. The only exception, or achievement, was the signing of the Joint Defence and Economic Cooperation Treaty in 1950, but even this failed its very first test when the war erupted in 1967.

Old man's flute echoes Gaza curfew

By Robert Swann

THE TROUPE from Gaza has not been able to come because of the curfew imposed after an Israeli intelligence officer was killed there. The thousands in the audience, however, are perfectly happy to watch and listen to a group from one of the smaller West Bank towns and to a very dignified old man who plays his grandfather's flute with the mouthpiece made from an eagle's beak.

The International Conference on the Palestinian Cultural Heritage had a grand — almost pompous — title but its real heart was in these nightly celebrations, through music, dance and poetry, of the Palestinian identity. The participants ranged from the semi-professional Ramallah group with men in splendidly flared white trousers tucked into high backed boots and girls in intricately embroidered costumes, to spare-time enthusiasts from scout groups. The great achievement was to bring together groups and lecturers from all parts of Palestine — Gaza, the West Bank, Jerusalem as well as Haifa and Galilee from within pre-1967 Israel.

It is fascinating to see the unity within diversity of the festival. The dancing and singing, like that throughout the Mediterranean world, celebrate harvest, courtship and marriage. What is distinctive is the constant refrain of attachment to a threatened land; as they sow the land they will plant, they say, a symbol of the Palestinian flag so that this too will grow and flower. On the stage, too, there is a subtle emphasis on the colours of the flag which, of course, it would be illegal to display.

Most of the day-time lectures are given by Palestinians, ranging from Ph.D.s from Western universities to secondary school

teachers, who are enthusiasts for the folklore of their own districts. It is one or two of the latter who raise the question of how to put into perspective negative elements of the Palestinian tradition. The experts tend to emphasise — very naturally — the component of Palestinian geography and history with which they personally are most concerned, Canaanite or Arab, Philistine or Mediterranean.

Anyhow — as an English Jewish friend who is here says — no fair-minded person who has seen the nightly shows could possibly doubt the Palestinian identity. The occasional "foreign influence" (some very dashing Cossack style boots worn by villagers from Upper Galilee who were neighbours in the 19th century of a Russian monastery) only proves that Palestinian society, like every other living society, does not live in a vacuum.

Yet in Jerusalem there is frequently a feeling of living in compartments within a box. I — as an outsider — can move more easily than most Jerusalemites. Even though Israel's official cultural commissars usually deny, disparage or worse still try to appropriate the Palestinian cultural heritage, there are other Israelis, fluent in Arabic, who have acknowledged and admired it. It would be nice if they could say a word next time.

Someone who would agree with me, I think, is Faisal Hussein, director of the Arab Studies Centre. One of the departments of the Centre is devoted to a study of Israeli society, and well-known Israelis have lectured to it. He deplores the mutual ignorance of Jews and Arabs about each other. When I saw him he had just been released from administrative detention — as I write this he has again been arrested for "questioning" and his friends fear this may lead to a permanently renewable detention.

Some of the Jewish boxes are just as sharply divided from each other as any Arab-Jewish division. The Orthodox are up in arms because films are now beginning to be shown in Jerusalem on the Sabbath evening. A recent prayer-meeting of protest at the Wailing Wall led to a scuffle between those who favoured peaceful protests and those who intended to force the closure of cinemas on the Sabbath — by violence, if necessary. Meanwhile those in favour of cinema opening were mounting pickets at the gate on the Tel Aviv road to persuade young people to stay in Jerusalem to see the films!

For obvious reasons there are no Muslim tourists or pilgrims. Those of Jewish or Christian origin, however, get their fair share of surprises. The new prestige hotel in Jewish-inhabited West Jerusalem, the Hyatt (partly built on land confiscated from an Arab family), will have two swimming pools, a fountain and a special Sabbath lift so that the Orthodox do not have to press an electric button.

In the narrow shopping streets of Old Jerusalem people from the different boxes meet. Arabs sell T-shirts marked "I love Israel" to American Jews in exiguous shorts and token skull-cap. A cucumber-sandwich-at-the-church-fete Englishman wanders into the Ethiopian Coptic Patriarchate and bears a liturgy much older than his own, with monks leaning for hours on their staffs as they chant what appears to be the blues and the gorgeously appraised celebrant wafts incense over the congregation.

My Arab taxi-driver reproaches me when I talk of certain churches "belonging" to different denominations. They all, he says, belong to God — Middle East International, London.

Shamir comes under attack

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Amirav at the meetings held last month. It conflicted with what Mr. Amirav wrote in Haaretz and broke with Likud policy by urging recognition of the PLO.

The right-wing Likud opposes relinquishing any part of the occupied territories in exchange for peace agreements and has rejected any contacts with the PLO or its supporters.

After news of Mr. Amirav's contacts with Palestinians was published last weekend, Mr. Shamir disassociated himself from the meetings and said Mr. Amirav may be expelled from the party.

"Based on his views, he has no place in the Likud," Mr. Shamir said, adding: "The moment you sit and talk with them (PLO supporters), it's as if you are surrendering to them, assenting to their demand that we evacuate the land of Israel."

The Palestinians were represented in the talks by philosophy professor Sari Nusseibeh, activist Faisal Husseini and newspaper publisher Salah Zuhair.

Mr. Nusseibeh was beaten by masked men Monday after teaching a class on the campus of Birzeit University near Ramallah several days after his participation in the Arab-Israeli dialogue was revealed.

Mr. Husseini, the leader of the delegation, was placed under

administrative detention and sentenced to six months in jail without trial after being accused of unspecified charges of pro-PLO activity earlier this month.

David Ish-Shalom, a left-wing Israeli who took part in the meetings, told reporters Mr. Shamir was aware of Mr. Amirav's contacts with the Palestinians.

"The PLO is stretching out its hand in peace. The way Shamir's government is handling it, treating those who participated like dogs, this causes trouble," Mr. Ish-Shalom said.

Despite Mr. Shamir's reaction, left-wing legislator Mattityahu Peled said Mr. Amirav's contacts were a "very encouraging sign. I think in the Likud they are starting to realise that slogans aren't enough, that they should speak with the other side."

Mr. Biton, an Israeli member of the predominantly Arab Communist Party, said he discussed both the Palestinian and the Israeli position papers during a meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Geneva earlier this month.

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THE GREAT LAKES

A contaminated ecosystem



Shore-dwellers' fears rise as Great Lakes fill to brim

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Shelli Lulkin once could see beach behind her Chicago condo. But now it's gone, a victim of Lake Michigan waves that sometimes slap her building's fifth floor. "We are no longer on the shoreline, we are the shoreline," she says.

Other residents along the Great Lakes are paying a heavy price for the delights of lakeside living. Beaches, back yards, roads, seawalls, and homes are disappearing. "Do you know what's down in the lake?" asks Donna Asselin of St. Joseph, Mich. "The roof of my house, sinks, a stove, beds. I'd never go back on the lake. I don't think people belong on the shoreline any more."

Record water levels

North America's fresh-water seas are filled to the brim. Four of them — Superior, Michigan, Huron and Erie — recently reached their highest recorded levels in this century. Ontario is close behind.

"All told the lakes cover almost 95,000 square miles," writes Charles E. Cobb Jr. in the July National Geographic. "Together they hold some six quadrillion gallons of fresh water. That is one-fifth of all the surface fresh water on earth and 95 per cent of all the surface fresh water in the United States. Four that over the contiguous U.S. and we'd all be in water 10 feet deep."

"Today there are waves and surf more akin to oceans than lakes," Cobb writes. "On these huge expanses of water, even after a storm has passed, the waves continue to crash. Erosion occurs everywhere."

Why are lake levels at their highest? For two decades, more rain than usual has fallen, and cooler temperatures have slowed evaporation. "You can't predict climate; it's like the stock market," says Frank Quinn, head of the Lake Hydrology Group of the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory.

One way to think of the lakes, Quinn suggests, is as a series of bathtubs filling with precipitation, ground-water inflow, and surface drainage from surround-

ing watersheds. Each bathtub, from Superior to Ontario, is lower than the next.

Channels connect the lakes, but they are so narrow that outflow is slow. For instance, a complete exchange of water in Superior would take 200 years. This means that when the lakes are full and little evaporation occurs, the water is not going anywhere anytime soon. "Everybody thinks there's a plug you can pull, but there's not," says Quinn.

Another reason for the changing lakes is something called "isostatic rebound." The earth's crust still is rebounding from the weight of the last ice age's glaciers. Although this upward thrust is only a few inches a century, it has the effect of tilting a pan of water — as the outlet channels of Michigan, Erie, and Ontario are tilted upward more rapidly than their southern shores.

Diversions change levels

Man-made structures modify lake levels somewhat. For instance, the Long Lac and Ogoki diversions bring water from Canada's James Bay watershed into Lake Superior, while the Chicago diversion removes water from Lake Michigan via the Illinois River.

A 1985 study by the International Joint Commission — a U.S.-Canadian body created by a 1909 treaty — concluded that changes in existing diversions would lower the upper Great Lakes less than a foot. Erie would drop nearly half a foot.

Last November, a preliminary report by the commission said that high water levels pose a threat of a "possible emergency." The report called for improving warning programmes and greater coordination of flood-control efforts.

But some along the Great Lakes say they find little comfort in reading commission reports while waiting for the next storm to strike. Two years ago, homeowners, convinced that more could be done and rejecting blame for building near shore, organized a coalition to persuade officials to pull the plugs that let water out and turn off the faucets



A house in South Haven, Mich., teeters on a storm-eroded bluff over Lake Michigan. Some geologists, believing the Great Lakes have been at long-term lows and are returning to more normal water levels, wonder whether humans can do much to reduce further damage along the 8,000 miles of coastline.

that let it in.

Coalition co-founder Cliff Saffy wants officials to turn off the Long Lac and Ogoki diversions, which pour an average of 3,600 cubic feet of water a second into Superior. He also wants outflow through the Chicago diversion increased.

But there are other political considerations besides those of homeowners. Because the Long Lac and Ogoki diversions produce cheap hydroelectric power, few Canadians want them closed. Meanwhile, farmers in downstate Illinois, fearing floods, want no increased flow through the Chicago diversion.

"What we need is a total management programme for the Great Lakes," says Saffy, whose LaSalle, Mich., home is scarred with watermarks that appear after every flood.

Experts question controllability

Total management of the lakes

would require massive engineering: New locks, channels, and dredging. In addition to the project's huge cost, its environmental impact could be grave. Quinn's conclusion: "The ability of man to control lake levels is slim."

Curtis Larsen of the U.S. Geological Survey also suggests that the Great Lakes may have the final word. He has challenged the long-held view that lake levels rise and fall within a two-foot range above and below historic averages.

Larsen says that for a century the lakes have been at a long-term low and are returning to more normal levels, possibly five feet higher. "The trend is upward," he adds. "I'm talking of centuries."

"If Larsen is correct," Cobb writes, "the worst may still lie ahead. Parts of downtown Chicago could be engulfed by Lake Michigan. Sections of other cities would have to be abandoned."

Briton hopes for close encounter with allegedly amorous yeti

By Stephen Nisbet
Reuters

PEKING — Chris Frost wants to get close to a yeti, but not too close.

Frost, a 31-year-old English biologist, was a slightly worried man when he set off alone from Lhasa earlier this month on a six-week search in the wilds of southern Tibet for the creature commonly known as the abominable snowman.

Judging from some of the more bizarre yeti stories circulating in China, he might have to fight off the creature's sexual advances. Frost told Reuters before leaving Peking for Tibet that he lacked only one piece of equipment for the trip — a can of anti-mugger spray he had hoped to buy in case a yeti encounter got too close for comfort.

"Reported Chinese sightings of the yeti suggest that the female may be sexually attracted to the human male," he said, citing sensational tales which appeared in a book published last year by China's Wild Man Research Society. Anthropologist Zhou Guoxing said there was no evidence to back up the book's accounts about the yeti's alleged erotic tastes.

Zhou, vice-director of Peking Natural History Museum, said in an interview he had resigned from the society after two years as co-chairman because he did not think its work sufficiently scientific.

One of the Wild Man Research Society's accounts, Frost said, concerned a soldier who went

missing on patrol in a forest in 1982. Months later another patrol saw him jump to his death from the mouth of a cave.

As the soldiers examined their dead colleague, a wild woman appeared and swung off on a vine. The missing soldier's uniform was in tatters and his hands and feet covered in animal skin.

In another account, a furry, large-breasted wild woman was said to have entered an official's bedroom at midnight with clearly amorous intentions.

The official and a colleague were supposed to have captured the creature and tied her up, but she escaped during night, leaving no trace.

The research society said that incident occurred in 1976 near Zhangyang on China's border with Nepal.

Laughingly dismissing these accounts as "just stories," Zhou said he grew more sceptical about the existence of a yeti or wild man the more he investigated reported sightings.

"Bears, apes, horses, and even a man living in a remote part of Xinjiang in western China, have been mistaken for the wild man at different times," he said.

The Wild Man Research Society was embarrassed in 1985 when an animal captured in central Hunan province was hailed by some members as a yeti before it was officially identified as a rare short-tailed monkey.

Zhou said that if some unidentified creature did exist, it was probably a descendant of gigantopithecus, a precursor of homo

sapiens which lived between one million and 200,000 years ago and whose fossils have been found in south China and India.

Frost acknowledged that an alarm bell he plans to ring up to fishing line around his sleeping bag was more likely to be set off by a black bear than a yeti.

"We don't know whether the yeti exists, and my scientific background tells me that my chances of finding it are a thousand to one," he said.

"I am nothing more than an Englishman following in a long tradition of eccentric British Explorers, living out their childhood dreams just for the fun of it," he said.

But Frost, whose home is near Gloucester, thinks he may have a better chance of meeting a yeti than past expeditions because he will travel alone (and so make less noise than a group) and will use his biologist's training in deciding where to look.

"Most people going into the wilds in Tibet head straight for the base camps of mountains like Everest," Frost said.

"Few go to the lower altitudes of sub-tropical and temperate forests where a large primate would have the chance to forage for food."

"The idea of the yeti as some kind of furry snowman is absurd because there is no food above the snowline."

Frost traces his taste for wandering around the roof of Asia from a father who was a British military intelligence officer in the Khyber Pass during

World War II.

To train himself for hiking in Tibet's high altitude and inhospitable terrain, Frost walked for weeks in the mountains of north Pakistan.

His ordeals there included a bout of dysentery, a stonning by village boys when he said he wasn't a Muslim and a sleepless night sharing a cave with shepherds who spent most of the time at the cave mouth shrieking to discourage wolves from attacking their flocks.

Although he will be exploring some areas near Tibet's borders with Nepal and Sikkim that are formally closed to foreigners, Frost said his mission had no goal beyond yeti-hunting.

He said that if there were any truth in the stories about the yeti's sexual appetite it could reflect the difficulty which an animal from a dying species might have in finding a mate. Growing development of the timber industry might be a threat to its habitat.

Frost said a dilemma would arise if the thousand to one chance happened and his expedition confirmed the yeti's existence.

"Should we leave it alone to face possible extinction? If we caught it, what would we do with it? Put it in a zoo even if it is humanoid and intelligent?" he asked.

"Maybe it's best after all if its existence remains a mystery, like the Loch Ness monster in Scotland,"

Small fry publisher makes breakthrough to big time

By Wolfgang Minaty

NORDLINGEN (DaD) — Franz Greno, 39, styles himself a small-scale publisher. He is based in Nordlingen, a picturesque town in a part of Swabia hit by a meteorite hundreds of thousands of years ago. Astronauts have trained in the crater.

For two years Nordlingen has been constantly in the book trade news. Franz Greno may have started with a small-scale operation, but small fry is now an understatement. In reality his has been the most spectacularly successful publishing venture for years in the German-speaking world. His position seemed so secure that he even felt able to risk a venture in the toughest market of them all, paperbacks. Greno pocket books were launched last spring.

The Greno story began with

the *Andere Bibliothek*, or Other Library, his first series, launched two and a half years ago. The name was its programme. Greno set out to make books that differed from the run of the mill in being of fine quality, traditionally printed and bound. He set out to tell books differently too, at a low price. He set out to do everything differently, such as reading books before he published them.

He was lucky to enlist the services of writer Hans Magnus Enzensberger as series editor. Enzensberger is responsible for the monthly book choice. Books cost DM30, inexpensive for a new hardback, regardless of length — 300, 400 or 600 pages. There used also to be free 30-page illustrated magazine about the book and the author. There are reported to have been keen collectors of these magazines alone —

although strictly speaking they were meant mainly to publicise the books they accompanied.

The magazine has been discontinued as one of a number of measures adopted to avert a cash crisis. Greno seems to have over-stretched himself, and the management admits that it may have grown too fast. The *Andere Bibliothek* is to continue unchanged. It is the bedrock of the company, the print run having long exceeded 600,000. Many titles have been long out of print or wallflowers, such as Lucian's *Tale of Lies*, Savinoy's *Memoirs of a Terrorist* and Rudolf Borchardt's *Impassioned Gardener*.

Greno's *Krater Bibliothek*, featuring books by German classics such as Armin, Seume and Wieland, is aimed at connoisseurs. Prices are to be increased this autumn, as are prices of the *Delphi* series, which will be

DM30-DM50 higher.

The wide range of titles published has done Greno's reputation a power of good. They include lush picture books, ambitious works of serious literature and critical reviews of modern history. And this extensive range is reflected in the Greno 10/20 paperback series, so named because titles cost either DM10 or DM20, depending on length. Authors (and subjects) include Gertrude and Goethe, Molke and Karl May, Hollywood and St. Pauli.

In order not to jeopardise the initial success story, the paperback range is to be trimmed — from seven new releases to four a month. This is a slimming exercise at which even small-scale publishers must be proficient, especially if they are well on their way to the big time.

Catholics left to wonder how much the Pope heard

By Robert Barr
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pope John Paul II talked more than he listened during his pastoral visit to the United States, leaving his sometimes reluctant followers wondering how much he really heard.

"It is pretty clear to me that he has not listened at all to what people are saying. They have no impact on his views," said Leonard Swidler, a Roman Catholic theologian at Temple University.

"He is hearing what is said, he just doesn't agree with everything that is said," concluded historian David J. O'Brien of Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts.

"I think the Pope does not understand very well how American society works and therefore he does not understand very well the problems that confront the American church."

During a 10-day visit that ended Saturday, the Pope gave 48 speeches, but he also listened to a few from bishops and lay leaders.

The bishops told the pontiff of the independence of American Catholics and their refusal to accept beliefs without being told reasons.

The Pope heard about the un-

happiness of women who cannot become priests; of the disaffection of Catholics who don't accept church teachings on divorce, birth control, abortion and homosexuality; of priests who believe they have a right to marry; of blacks who feel excluded from leadership.

To the bishops, John Paul said it was a "grave error" to believe that anyone could dissent from church teachings and still be a "good Catholic."

"That doesn't mean I am going to start on a witch hunt," said Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara of Indianapolis, one of the 320 bishops who met with John Paul in Los Angeles.

German Grisez, professor of Christian ethics at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, suggested the question was not whether the Pope listened to the bishops, but whether the bishops had heard the Pope.

"It was the clearest statement he's made on those problems (of dissent) during his whole pontificate," Grisez said.

"He was telling us it is our job to minister to all the people to develop a deeper understanding of the church's teachings. We try to convert people and teach continual conversion to develop a

deeper faith," said Bishop Thomas Tschoepe of Dallas.

Archbishop Thomas Kelly of Louisville, Kentucky, said it was unrealistic to believe that any changes would be immediately apparent during the visit.

"No Pope can ever be pressured into anything by public opinion. It just doesn't happen," Kelly said, adding that John Paul "would never yield to pressure or to public opinion. It's not in his nature."

Archbishop John J. O'Connor of New York said he believed reports of dissent within the church have been exaggerated, though he said there are dissenters among the nation's bishops, some of whom "hate the Pope" for imposing rules.

"Will there be a renewed emphasis on the fundamental instructions, in which I think we have been grossly lacking? I suspect that that will occur," O'Connor said on Sunday.

Some Catholics, however, were unhappy with what they saw during the Pope's visit.

Swidler said he believes the church will relax its rule on priestly celibacy and eventually will accept abortion under some circumstances, but not while John Paul is Pope.

"He simply thinks he is right," Swidler said. "He seems to be at the point psychologically of being incapable of listening to others and what they have to say."

"He didn't come to America to listen to the different groups so that he could dialogue with them," said Catharine Stewart-Roache of Albuquerque, New Mexico, who is a member of the Women's Ordination Conference and hopes to become a priest. "He's certainly sitting down talking to women about how we should solve issues that concern women."

But Sherry Tyree of the conservative group Women for Faith and Family said she wanted no changes in the church.

"I am happy that he so strongly, kindly and graciously reaffirmed the basic beliefs of the Catholic church," she said in San Francisco.

"He's like a man who can embrace his children but who sets the laws and will not deviate from them," James Lococo, one of the AIDS patients blessed by the Pope at Mission Dolores in San Francisco, said. "I don't think any great changes will occur as a result of this trip, but I'm hoping he will take what he's seen back to the Vatican and digest it."

Taiwan's teen-agers go 'whirlwind bike' crazy

By Andrew Browne
Reuters

TAIPEI — Taiwan teen-agers have gone motorcycle mad, using busy highways for high speed races that have left a horrifying trail of death.

Illegal motorcycle racing is the latest in a series of bizarre crazes to sweep the island.

They are seen as a warning that Taiwan people, especially teen-agers, are bored and restless after years of martial law austerity and are itching to kick the system.

"The 'whirlwind bike' craze took off about two months ago when young bikers on powerful machines with dropped handlebars started using a stretch of highway outside Taipei as a race track on Saturday nights.

Tens of thousands of spectators soon began arriving to watch in morbid fascination as contestants, usually boys with girls riding pillion, hurtled down the course at suicidal speeds, dodging the passing traffic.

The carnage has shocked Taiwan. Scores of racers, some as young as 14, have been killed or crippled.

A huge betting industry has grown up around the races which have spread across the island and become the major spectator sport in southern industrial towns.

Radio and television news bulletins now begin with a government warning: "Bike races are dangerous. Stay away from them. Warn your relatives to stay away."

Sociologists and political commentators blame Kuomintang (Nationalist Party) leaders who under martial law virtually outlawed fun.

Martial law was established in 1949 when the Kuomintang fled to Taiwan from mainland China after their defeat by Communist forces, and was lifted only this year.

The island was on a permanent war footing, ready for an assault from Peking, and the government preached the values of discipline, thrift and hard work. Military training began in schools and frivolous pleasures were frowned on.

"It's a moral question," said Lu Ya-Li, professor of politics at National Taiwan University. "Old leaders believed young peo-

ple should lead a spartan life. So there are no amusements."

Dancing is illegal except in a few hotel nightclubs. Snooker is banned. Until recently, a police permit was needed for private parties. All gambling, except the government lottery, is forbidden.

There are no amusement parks in Taiwan's crowded cities. Many beaches and mountain areas are out-of-bounds for security reasons. The few public swimming pools are hopelessly crowded during the scorching summer.

Taiwan's economic growth has created a wealthy society with a new confidence and sense of security. It has one of Asia's highest standards of living and huge supplies of idle savings to spend on entertainment.

"It is a spiritual problem," said Jaw Shih-Kong, an outspoken Kuomintang member. "Although they are getting richer, we do not have any recreation."

Motorcycle racing came as authorities were battling to destroy a multimillion-dollar illegal lottery called "Ta Chia Le" ("everybody is happy").

The lottery has become a

dangerous obsession. Many factories across Taiwan are forced to close for several days each month as workers buy their tickets, flock to temples to pray for luck, and wait for the draw.

Some of Asia's largest and most extravagant discotheques have opened illegally in Taipei over the past year.

Patrons of Penthouse, one of the hottest discos in town, are regularly herded off the dance floor during police raids. When the police leave, the dancing starts again.

Illegal nightclubs in the southern city of Kaohsiung instantly transform themselves into restaurants during raids.

Resentment against the state curbs on entertainment has reached new heights during the motorcycle craze, prompting debate on whether formal race tracks should be built.

When a biker was killed last month after police tried to run him off the road during a race, several thousand angry spectators attacked the local police station, burning dozens of police cars and motorcycles and injuring 28 officers.

By Paul Ben-Itzak
Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO — An innovative drama-comedy about teenage incest is one of the biggest recent successes in San Francisco Theatre.

Depicting the disintegration of a family because of a teenager's relationship with her brother, Alan Bowne's "Sharon and Billy" is a sort of neurotic underside of television's family situation comedy "Father Knows Best."

Playwright Bowne calls "Sharon and Billy" a rite of passage story, about coming to maturity. "I certainly wasn't out to shock or disturb," he told Reuters in an interview. "I don't find it shocking or disturbing. It's got a lot of comedy in it. It's full of humour."

"Sharon and Billy" is the longest-running play in the 21-year history of the innovative Magic Theatre, which helped launch film stars Peter Coyote and Ed Harris and has premiered

many works by Pulitzer-prizewinning playwright Sam Shepard. In a six-month run last year, it outran Magic productions of Shepard's "Buried Child" and "True West."

"The Magic Theatre continues to bolster its reputation as a producer of, and magnet for, first-rate drama," said Variety, an entertainment trade newspaper. It called "Sharon and Billy" a delicate and "even amusing study of brother-sister incest."

Incest is barely hinted at in the gentle seduction scene.

What begins as two kids in what suits fooling around with food ends with Billy comforting Sharon after she starts crying when he tells her that their father says she's a slut. The lights dim on the siblings in tender embrace.

When Sharon discovers she is pregnant, she tells her parents that a classmate is the father, letting Billy off the hook. Father, his daughter and tries to force a meal of liver and onions down her

throat. Unable to take more punishment, Sharon stabs his hand with a butter knife.

When Billy asks, out of their parents' hearing, what she did to incite dad's wrath, she blurts out: "It's yours."

Sent away to have the baby, Sharon returns, meets another boy and again becomes pregnant. This time, she decides to leave home and get married. As the play ends, Billy, still desperately in love, pleads with her to go away with him.

Bowne's "Beirut" created a stir this summer during a run at the off-Broadway Westside Arts Theatre in New York.

"Beirut" is about love blooming in a world stricken by a sexual plague. An unaffected young woman sneaks into the area of Brooklyn, New York where her infected lover is quarantined, urging him to ignore the risk and make love to her.

Although New York critics cal-

led "Beirut" an AIDS play, Bowne says it was a love story, with acquired immune deficiency syndrome merely a theatrical device.

In "Sharon and Billy", incest is a device for what Bowne says is a play about forbidden love.

"When you love, you can't deal with taboos," he said. "When love happens, it just takes over."

San Francisco critics unanimously praised "Sharon and Billy". It was nominated as best play in the local equivalent of the Tony Awards. Also nominated were director Albert Takazackas, Stacey Jack and Liam O'Brien as Sharon and Billy, and Will Marchetti and Carla Spindt as the mother and father.

Bowne thinks chances are slim that "Sharon and Billy" will be staged in New York. Negative reviews from the city's major critics for "Beirut" and another play, "40-Deuce", makes theatres reluctant to produce him, he said.

Seoul-Pyongyang Olympic war continues

N. Korea seeks to spoil Olympics — U.S. admiral

PANMUNJON, South Korea (Agencies) — North Korea is trying to disrupt the 1988 Seoul Olympics by seeking to increase military tension in the region, the United Nations command claimed on Tuesday.

U.S. Navy Rear Adm. William T. Pendley, senior member of the command, made the charge after rejecting North Korean claims that the command was stoking military tension.

North Korea's actions indicated it was trying to set the stage for provocations that would disrupt the games and discourage other nations from taking part, Pendley said.

"The UNC, while working extra hard to ensure that tension is not increased, remains ready to defeat any acts of aggression..." Pendley said.

North Korea has asked to be made a co-host for the games, scheduled to start in Seoul on Sept. 17, 1988. The International Olympic Committee and South Korea have rejected the demand, but have offered to let the North stage some of Olympic events.

The UNC represents South Korea, the United States and 15 other nations that aided South Korea during the war with North Korea from 1950 to 1953.

North Korea has charged that U.N. command forces had violated North Korea's territory and committed 12,300 armistice violations in August.

North Korean Maj.-Gen. Li Tae Ho claimed South Korea and its allies were trying to increase tension on the Korean Peninsula. He said South Korean naval vessels had violated the North's waters and that U.S. spy planes had violated its air space.

Pendley labelled the North Ko-

rean charges as false. South Korea blamed North Korea for a bombing at Seoul Airport during the 1986 Asian Games which left five people dead.

The United States, which has 41,000 troops in South Korea under a mutual defence pact, also has warned that the North may attempt to disrupt the games. The United States has pledged to help safeguard the Seoul Olympics.

South Korea notified North Korea on Tuesday that it would reply this week to the North's proposal calling for two-way talks on its demand for sharing next year's Olympics.

A spokesman for the South Korean Olympic Committee told reporters the reply, originally scheduled for Tuesday, would now be delivered to the North through the Panmunjon border village on Thursday due to "discussions still continuing among authorities concerned."

The spokesman did not say what the reply would be but one committee official told reporters Seoul would reject the Northern offer because "any talks about the Olympic Games should involve the IOC (International Olympic Committee)."

The IOC, which awarded the 1988 Summer Games to Seoul, has held four rounds of talks with North and South Korea since 1985 to avert a possible Pyongyang-led Communist boycott. The official said no more sports talks were necessary unless North

Korea accepted the IOC's July take-it-or-leave-it offer to stage the archery, table tennis, women's volleyball, men's 100-km cycle road race and one of four soccer preliminary group competitions.

"With less than one year to go before the Olympics, North Korea should hurry up and accept the IOC offer if it wants to hold some of the events," he said.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch told reporters on Thursday he would meet Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in a bid to head off a Communist boycott of the Seoul games, set to open on September 17, 1988.

Speaking after a ceremony to mark the mailing of invitations to a record 167 countries to compete in the Seoul games, Samaranch said he hoped to meet Gorbachev before the Jan. 17 deadline for countries to reply.

The Justice Ministry in Seoul said Tuesday that foreigners visiting South Korea during the 1988 Seoul Olympics will be allowed to stay for 30 days without a visa.

Currently, foreign tourists are allowed to stay in South Korea for 15 days without a visa.

Foreigners coming from Communist countries to take part in Olympic-related cultural events will receive entry permits from South Korean diplomatic establishments abroad, the ministry said.

South Korea has no diplomatic relations with Communist countries.

The Seoul Olympic Organising Committee plans to issue special identification cards for foreign officials and athletes competing in the Seoul games.

American football players strike

NEW YORK (AP) — National Football League players called their second strike in six years Monday night, putting their six-figure salaries on the line for the freedom to choose where they work.

Gene Upshaw, executive director of the NFL Players Association, announced the strike during halftime of the New England Patriots-New York Jets game.

"There's no way it can be averted. We've been forced into an action that's had for the players, the fans and the owners," Upshaw said.

"In several cities, the players have already cleaned out their lockers. Others will be cleaning them out later in the week," he said.

The owners promised to resume the season Oct. 4-5, after a delay of about one week. They plan to fill their teams with non-striking regular players and free agents who were told to report Wednesday, the same day the union planned to start picketing. The owners said they would honor requests for ticket refunds.

The strike issue was free agency. The union demanded that any player with more than four years' experience be free to choose his team. The owners insisted on some compensation for teams losing free agents, a system that has seen only one player change teams in a decade.

That was much different from the 1982 NFL strike, which lasted 57 days and cancelled seven of 16 games. That walkout was over money. Since then, the average salary for players has climbed from \$90,000 a year to \$230,000 a year.

"Free agency cannot be summed up in terms of dollars. It's not about money. It's about dignity and freedom," Upshaw said. "It's about who you work for."

There have been no talks since a meeting Friday between Upshaw and Management Council negotiator Jack Donlan. No further negotiations were scheduled.

Upshaw told the players to expect a long strike. He also said it didn't have to take long to settle the differences.

Some teams, like Indianapolis, said they already had full rosters of free agents to continue the season, while other teams had barely more than one or two players signed as replacements.

On the baseball scene, an arbitrator said Monday that baseball owners conspired to "destroy" free agency after the 1985 season, in a ruling that could force open the market for stars such as Jack Clark, Dale Murphy and Cal Ripken Jr.

In his 16-page decision, arbitrator Tom Roberts wrote that the clubs' approach to free agency in 1985 violated the collective bargaining agreement between players and owners.

Roberts wrote that free agents "surely had a value at some price and yet no offers were advanced." Roberts underlined "no" in his ruling.

The decision affects Kirk Gibson, Donnie Moore and 60 other 1985 free agents, but it offered no remedies. Hearings on those remedies begin this week.

The arbitrator found that the clubs entered into a common scheme, the effect of which was to destroy free agency," said players' union head Don Fehr.

"In other words, they corked the market. We will ask the arbitrator... (to) make sure that it will never happen again."

The owners' chief negotiator, Barry Rona, said: "We will comply and we will comply. But I can't tell a club to engage in free agency or not."

A Sahara skiing sensation
Austrian stages world premier in Jordan

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The desert may never look quite the same again — thanks to Austrian Manfred Cizek, a civil engineer and ski fanatic.

Cizek, 43, last week became the first man in the world to combine water-skiing with sand-skiing to produce a sport he calls "sand-ski-joring" — skiing on sand while being pulled behind a car.

The tall, well-built man from Vienna did the "world premier" last week near Madaba, just off the highway to the Queen Alia International Airport.

"People on the highway were stopping their cars to watch, as if I came from the moon," said Cizek, who works in Amman with an Austrian firm renovating the Raghadan Palace. He said bedouins in the desert "must have thought they were dreaming."

Cross-country sand skiing and sand-dune downhill skiing, which do not require being pulled by a car, has been tried in Arab Gulf states, but sand-ski-joring is modelled by Cizek to serve as the Jordanian answer to the popular European sport of skiing on snow behind a car, a motorcycle or a horse.

"I did it to create a new sport," Cizek told the Jordan Times on Tuesday. "I like pushing myself to the very limit. I'm a fanatic skier, but I couldn't find snow in Jordan. So, I realised that if I am going to do it in Amman, I will do it on sand."

A serious athlete, Cizek explained that sand-ski-joring "is an easy but dangerous sport."

"You must concentrate every second. It can be dangerous

skiing on sand and stones at the speed of 50 to 60 kilometres an hour. You must be strong and in a very good condition," he warned.

Cizek, who has taken part in 15 international marathons, did cross-country sand-skiing in Wadi Rum last year using thin skis. But he said that after covering 10 kilometres, "you begin to see stars." He was referring to the excessive heat that makes skiing there difficult.

Austria's well-known ski manufacturers Fischer Company, have recently provided Cizek with special skis for sand-ski-joring. The modified skis are halfway between downhill and cross country skis. He calls the skis with special steel corners, "touring skis."

The Austrian innovative athlete says it was easy to modify skis for the purpose of sand-ski-joring. The adjustments are on foot holders and special cross-country shoes. He said a modified set would cost nearly JD 100.

Cizek intends to ride on his skis behind a motorcycle along the Mafrag-Baghdad pipeline. He said he intends to cover the 800 kilometres next spring in 20 days, and that he hoped to get sponsors for that trip.

The man from Austria keeps in shape by cycling and running. His favourite place for cycling is in the Wadi Mujib and Dead Sea areas.

"I like to go down Wadi Mujib at the speed of 80 kilometres per hour. It's dangerous, but I love danger."

Cizek uncyclied 25 kilometres in the last stage of a marathon to Aqaba for a charitable cause last year.

Comparing his brand of sand skiing with water skiing, Cizek



You can get a sun-bun too!



Manfred Cizek enjoying his favourite sport last week off the road to the Queen Alia International Airport.

said water skiing was "much easier and less dangerous." Although he says that so far he had no accidents, he warned that "one has to be very fit. The pressure is on the hands, arms and leg muscles, because you have to bend your knees so as not to fall."

The endurance sports enthusiast said he will try sand-ski-joring in Wadi Rum later this

year. He said that the presence of stones in sand fields in Jordan was a blessing in disguise. The stones, he said, make it easier for steel skis to glide at higher speeds.

Cizek's wife and two daughters live in Vienna. "They get worried when they hear about my crazy things," he said. "But they become happy when they know I'm o.k."

Mediterranean Games

Italy cashes in on gold; Morocco equals Olympic triumph

LATAKIA, Syria (AP) — Italy collected its 52nd gold medal in the Mediterranean Games Monday, equalling its best tally ever.

Algeria, Egypt and Cyprus won their first golds on a day that saw Morocco's Said Aouita and Nawal El-Moutawakel repeat their Los Angeles Olympic triumphs.

Italy's Marco Martino won the men's discus with a toss of 60.94 metres over Costas Georgakopoulos of Greece at 59.64.

That pushed Italy's gold count in the Olympic-style festival to 52, equalling its performance at the 9th Mediterranean Games in Casablanca, Morocco, four years ago.

Populous Egypt scored its first gold in judo, while little Cyprus won in the triple jump.

Algeria won the men's volleyball crown with a 2-1 victory over France, its former colonial ruler.

Aouita and El-Moutawakel joined for gold again by taking the women's 400-metre hurdles and the men's 5,000 metres track events.

Aouita, who won the 1,500 metres race Sunday, finished just ahead of his compatriot Ibrahim Aboutayeb in 13.38.02, well off Aouita's world record time of



Italian swimmer Tanya Vannini won 3 golds.

12:48.39 but far ahead of the rest of the pack.

The two men circled the track after the victory, waving to a jubilant crowd that shouted "Aouita, Aouita."

El-Moutawakel won the hurdles in 56.27 seconds, ahead of Semra Aksu, whose time of 56.59 appeared to break her own Turkish national record and matched the old Mediterranean Games mark.

Irmgard Trojer of Italy won the bronze medal in 57.25 seconds. "It was tough," El-Mouta-



Aouita... sustains superiority

wakel said. "I didn't expect to win. I was tired."

"I just got here from the States and I ran yesterday and today."

Spain captured both the gold and silver in the men's 400-metre hurdles as Jose Alonso sped across the finish line in 49.93 seconds, just ahead of Jesus Are-

no with 50.68.

Italy's Luca Gelfi raced home 21 seconds ahead of Spain's Eduardo Ruiz to win the 170-kilometre cycling race.

The 21-year-old Gelfi, a noted sprinter, won the race from Aleppo to Latakia in 4 hours, 48 minutes and 11 seconds.

Teammate Fabrizio Bontempi won the bronze medal in 4:49.18. Cyprus' triumph came when Marios Hadjiandreou triple jumped 16.49 metres, 28 centimetres short of his own record for the island nation.

Egypt's Hasn Badra was second at 15.98 and Greece's Theodor Tandonis took bronze with jumps of 15.96.

Flamengo downs Vasco 2-1

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Flamengo downed archrival Vasco Da Gama 2-1 and Goias upset powerful Corinthians 1-0 in weekend games for the second round of the Brazilian national soccer championship.

Seven of 16 teams in the First Division are tied for the lead with 3 points each.

Flamengo of Rio recovered from an opening-round loss to Sao Paulo with a victory over hometown rival Vasco in the debut of coach Carlinhos, who last week replaced Antonio Lopes at the helm of Flamengo.

The game also marked the debut of all-star fullback Edinho, recently acquired by Flamengo from Udinese of Italy.

Flamengo dominated the match, which apparently ended 10 minutes early when the referee failed to compensate for a mid-game stoppage.

Flamengo midfielder Bebeto opened the scoring on a header after a centering pass from all-star winger Renato, considered the best player on the field.

Veteran Roberto "Dynamite" tied the game for Vasco on a goal that skittered along the goal line and rolled out. The judges took 10 minutes to rule the goal valid.

Flamengo broke the tie on a penalty kick by veteran midfielder Zico in the closing minutes. The game was marred by a fistfight between Vasco midfielder Geovani and Edinho. Geovani was expelled and Edinho left the game with a fractured jaw.

In other matches, Corinthians of Sao Paulo failed to pierce the defence of Goias and was surprised by a goal in the closing minutes, to take a 1-0 loss.

In a nationally televised game, current champion Sao Paulo managed only a 1-1 tie against a

Bahia team. Defenceman Ze Teodoro scored for Sao Paulo and Bobo, frequently mentioned as an all-star team candidate, tied it for Bahia.

In Rio, a revamped Botafogo put on an excellent performance before ceding a 1-1 tie to cross-town rival Fluminense. Vagner scored for Botafogo and Washington for Fluminense.

Four games ended in a 0-0 tie: Atletico Mineiro vs. Internacional; Palmeiras vs. Santos; Gremio vs. Cruzeiro, and Coritiba vs. Santa Cruz.

Brazil's 16 top-ranked clubs are competing in the so-called "Green Group," equivalent to a first division. Another 16 teams are in the "Yellow Group," or second division.

However, the Brazilian soccer confederation has yet to say how the national title will be decided.

IAAF challenges test dodge claim

LONDON (AP) — The secretary of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, John Holt, Tuesday challenged world mile record holder Steve Cram to produce evidence that top track and field competitors can bend antidope testing rules.

Cram made his comments during an interview televised Monday by the British Broadcasting Corp. The 25-year-old Briton said anti-drug rules could be manipulated to ensure top competitors appear at certain track meets

and avoid being tested.

Holt, whose organisation governs world track and field, said Cram's comments were irresponsible, even if he had been talking hypothetically.

"He is giving the impression that top athletes don't necessarily have to submit themselves to doping controls and that they can somehow get round the rules. We refuse that very strongly," Holt told the Associated Press by telephone.

Cram, the former world 1,500-

metre champion, told the BBC that promoters of non-championship meets were under pressure to get the top athletes to appear.

"There's a lot of money riding on it. And if a particular athlete were to, say, first of all, argue about his money and have that sorted out, and then say what is the deal on dope-testing, I'm sure that the rules or the procedures would be bent to accommodate that particular athlete," Cram told the BBC.

Graf gains easy victory in Germany

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — World number one Steffi Graf cruised through her first match at the \$150,000 Hamburg women's tennis tournament on Tuesday but her fellow-West German Bettina Bunge suffered a shock defeat.

Graf, playing in her first match

since losing to Martina Navratilova in the final of the U.S. Open, only her second defeat of the year, had little trouble earning a third round place by beating Louise Field of Australia 6-1, 6-2.

But the 18-year-old Graf, such a perfectionist on court, she stamped her foot in frustration

several times when a point did not go exactly the way she planned it.

Third seed Bunge, on the other hand, fell in straight sets to a player she had never even heard of before they went on court, Leila Meskhi of the Soviet Union who is ranked 175 in the world

Moscow, Kiev fans clash after match

MOSCOW (AP) — Soccer fans in Kiev angered by their team's loss to a Moscow squad attacked a train carrying Moscow players and fans, hurling bottles and rocks and smashing windows, the Kiev daily said Monday.

The Spartak team defeated Kiev Dynamo 1-0, Sunday night in a game played in the Ukrainian capital that was televised nationwide.

After the match, Izvestia said, Kievans whistled in derision at the Spartak players as the visiting team drove to the train station.

People wearing the blue and white colours of Kiev Dynamo blocked the path of the Spartak players' bus as it tried to pull up to the rail platform.

Spartak fans and other people tried to clear a way for the bus, but a brawl broke out, the newspaper reported.

"Fans of one team attacked fans of the other," Izvestia said. "They took the first things that came to hand: stones and bottles."

A small group of uniformed police were at the scene, but initially appeared confused by the outbreak of violence and did nothing to stop it, the government daily said.

When Spartak players boarded the train to return to Moscow, bottles and rocks were thrown at the windows of their passenger car, Izvestia said. Yonks outside the train then began smashing windows in other cars.

"Train passengers, in a panic, rushed in different directions," said Izvestia, which had a correspondent aboard the train.

The reporter "saw the enraged faces of the young people who were attacking the different cars in a frenzy, and saw the upholders of order doing nothing."

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	1312/1313	Italian lira
	143.90/144.00	Japanese yen
	6.3800/50	Swedish crowns
	6.6475/6525	Norwegian crowns
	6.9800/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	462.50/463.00	U.S. dollars

HIS JOKES

U.S., Soviets clash over S. Africa at IAEA talks

VIENNA (R) — Nigerian-led attempts to suspend South Africa from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have struck a discordant note in newly-harmonised U.S.-Soviet relations, diplomats said.

At an IAEA conference, U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington warmly greeted Soviet delegation head Andrei Petrosyants on Monday, reflecting superpower relations since they agreed in principle to scrap medium and shorter-range nuclear missiles.

But shortly afterwards a senior U.S. official criticised Moscow for backing a proposal to suspend Pretoria, accused of developing nuclear weapons, from the United Nations agency.

"It's baffling to us how (the Soviet Union) can vote for exclusion of South Africa... and still talk about non-proliferation and nuclear safety," the official said, requesting anonymity.

Meanwhile South African President P.W. Botha said in Johan-

nesburg his government hopes soon to sign a U.N. treaty designed to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

Delegation sources said Mr. Herrington and Mr. Petrosyants would discuss the suspend-South-Africa resolution, due to be debated at the end of the five-day conference.

Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman lambasted South Africa, quoting "highly reliable sources" as saying Pretoria had tested nuclear weapons devices as long ago as 1979.

"The nuclear capacity of South Africa constitutes a very grave danger to international peace and security. In particular it jeopardises the security of African states," he told the conference.

Mr. Herrington told Reuters he condemned apartheid but the IAEA, a technical organisation, should be kept free of politics. But Mr. Lukman said: "This distinction between what is technical and what is political is artificial and only self-serving."

Addressing Western views that a suspension would harm the IAEA's influence over Pretoria, Mr. Lukman said: "South Africa developed its nuclear weapons while still a member of this agency. The situation cannot be worse than it is now."

Mr. Botha said on Monday his government was considering allowing the IAEA to inspect its nuclear facilities, including a controversial uranium reprocessing plant. But he added talks with the IAEA depended on the outcome of the meeting, which ends on Friday.

Mr. Herrington, however, said he wanted South Africa to move on the treaty before next Friday's

suspension vote. "It would sure make the vote easier," he said. The United States and Western Europe are expected to back Pretoria against Third World votes on Friday.

After years of international pressure, President Botha's statement on Monday marked a major policy change by South Africa.

There was no immediate official explanation for Pretoria's shift on the treaty, signed by 134 countries together with a "safeguards" deal allowing checks to make sure nuclear fuel is not diverted for use in weapons.

In 1979, American satellite detected mysterious flash over the South Atlantic. South Africa was accused with Israel, another state which has not signed the treaty of testing an atom bomb in the remote area.

Mr. Lukman said that highly reliable sources had confirmed Pretoria tested a nuclear weapon then and had recently built a nuclear testing site.

Reagan, Junejo hold talks on nuclear matters

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan held a "direct and forthright" discussion with Pakistan Prime Minister Mohammad Junejo about concerns that Pakistan has an active nuclear weapons programme, a senior U.S. official said.

But Mr. Junejo firmly denied that Pakistan had built a nuclear device or had plans to do so. "No," Mr. Junejo told reporters when asked about the matter. "No plans."

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Junejo met for 30 minutes following Mr. Reagan's address to the 42nd General Assembly. Reporters were allowed to view the opening of the meeting and queried Mr. Junejo.

In the past, U.S. officials have pressed Pakistan for assurances that it is not working on a nuclear bomb. Pakistan has said it enriches uranium only to fuel grade and is not producing a nuclear device.

A senior U.S. official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, said the subject was discussed by the two leaders. He was asked if the United States believed Mr. Junejo's denials about his nation's nuclear programme.

"We have concerns about aspects of Pakistan's nuclear activities," the official said. "The prime minister and the president had a full discussion of this."

The official called the exchange a "very thorough, candid discussion of nuclear matters. The tone was friendly, but it was very direct and forthright."

"We've had differences. We both seek to resolve those differences... it was a useful discussion," he added.

The official declined to give further details, calling the issue "a very sensitive subject."

The U.S. Congress is considering a \$4.2-billion aid package for Pakistan, and there is strong sentiment to suspend the assistance unless Islamabad can demonstrate it is not producing weapons-grade nuclear material.

Pakistan plays a major role in the U.S. effort to provide aid to the rebels battling adjacent Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government.

The official said Mr. Reagan, as he had in his speech, warmly thanked Pakistan for giving support and sanctuary to Afghan refugees.

The official said the two men "expressed confidence we can resolve our differences."

"It was a good meeting between two good friends," the official said.

Ramos calls Philippine situation 'clearly bad'

MANILA (R) — The Philippines' military chief said on Tuesday Communist rebels were killing more soldiers now than before last month's failed military coup and that the country's political situation "clearly is bad."

General Fidel Ramos said that despite the crushing of the Aug. 28 revolt "we are not out of the woods yet." But he added he did not think the situation was grave enough for President Corazon Aquino to assume emergency powers.

Speaking at a luncheon with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, Gen. Ramos said it was "very possible" right-wing death squads were behind the murder of leftist leader Leao Alejandro last week and the killing of labour leader Rolando Olalia 10 months ago.

But he added the evidence so far was inconclusive. Officials said they were watching in ports to prevent renegade soldier Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan from fleeing abroad, and the United States said it had cancelled any U.S. travel papers the rebel officer might have.

Zimbabwe shuts opposition party offices

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe's Home Affairs Minister Enos Nkala has ordered the closure of all offices of the opposition ZAPU Party, saying it will now be treated as a "hostile organisation."

Mr. Nkala, interviewed in the south western town of Bulawayo late on Monday by the domestic news agency ZIANA, said the order was part of a crackdown on anti-government rebels, referred to as dissidents.

"I have directed that all ZAPU offices across the country be closed down and the people there to look for alternative employment," Mr. Nkala said.

"I have also directed that all ZAPU structures be set aside, that is, they will not function and any structure which tries to function will be met with utmost determination," he told ZIANA.

Mr. Nkala's announcement stopped short of an outright ban on the party led by veteran politician Joshua Nkomo, which draws most of its support from Matabeleland around Bulawayo.

But political sources said it would amount to much the same thing. ZAPU rallies and meetings have already been banned.

"We are now treating ZAPU as a hostile organisation like Renamo in Mozambique which is inimical to good political order."

Renamo, also known as the MNR, is the right-wing rebel Mozambican National Resistance movement trying to topple Mozambique's government.

ZAPU, which has 14 seats in parliament, has repeatedly denied government charges that it is linked with dissidents who have murdered white farmers and government officials in Matabeleland and midlands provinces.

Government spokesman Jerzy Urban recently said that Mr. Bush's visit would contribute to the full normalisation of U.S.-Polish relations. Asked whether an exchange of ambassadors was linked to the visit, he hinted:

"The exchange of ambassadors falls within the concept of improved mutual relations."

Western diplomats have said Poland and the United States would probably have agreed to keep silent until a joint announcement could be made in Washington and Warsaw.

Israel has been using the current rules to obtain thousands of the files, which it has turned over to the Israeli Holocaust research centre for study.

Israeli U.N. Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu has said that the centre's study of some of the files indicates they contain a "treasure trove" of details about the Holocaust.

The files contain references to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler, his chief henchman Heinrich Himmler and Adolf Eichmann, who directed the deportation of European Jews to death camps.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said earlier this month that he was calling Tuesday's meeting because he "has discerned a general trend in favour of granting wider access for purposes of serious historical research."

Hirohito surgery reveals cancer possibility

TOKYO (R) — Japan's 86-year-old Emperor Hirohito underwent an operation on Tuesday to relieve a blocked intestine, and doctors later said they could not rule out the possibility of cancer of the pancreas.

The chief surgeon in the two-and-a-half hour operation, Dr. Yasuhiko Morioka, told a televised news conference later that they had been expecting to find a problem with the intestines, but instead discovered the emperor's pancreas was swollen.

"There are various doubts about cancer, and doctors are planning to conduct a pathological examination of part of the pancreas removed during the operation," Dr. Morioka said.

He said the results of the test would be available in about one week.

The emperor's condition during the operation was good and he was recovering well, Dr. Morioka said. He will be released from hospital in four or five days unless complications arise, he added.

"Other organs such as the stomach, small and big intestines and the kidneys were all normal and functioning well for his age," the doctor said.

Earlier in the day, the world's longest-reigning monarch, once venerated by the Japanese people as a God, delegated his state ceremonial duties to his son,

Crown Prince Akihito, 53.

As the operation was in progress in a private hospital inside the Imperial Palace grounds in central Tokyo, a number of people gathered outside and bowed towards the palace, apparently praying for the emperor's swift recovery.

Hirohito, emperor since 1926, has been unwell on several occasions since the death of his younger brother Prince Takamatsu in February.

He is the 124th "imperial son of heaven" in the world's oldest dynastic line, unbroken over 2,600 years, and according to Japanese mythology he is the descendant of a sun goddess.

During Dr. M'Bow's 13-year tenure at the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the United States, Britain and Singapore withdrew over charges of waste and anti-Western bias.

UNESCO's 50-member executive board, which opens its autumn session on Wednesday, is to hold elections for the agency's top post on Oct. 6.

Dr. M'Bow 66, announced last October that he was not seeking a third term. But UNESCO experts note he has never ruled out standing again.

Diplomats say Dr. M'Bow, the first African to head a major U.N. agency, has been quietly lobbying for a new mandate.

The American Bar Association (ABA) also said on Monday that four of 15 members of its committee that reviews Supreme Court nominations found Mr. Bork unqualified because of concerns about his commitment to civil rights.

"It was the first time the influential committee has not unanimously endorsed a Supreme Court nominee since 1969."

ABA Committee Chairman Harold Tyler told the Senate committee that 10 members of the panel did give Mr. Bork their highest recommendation of well qualified, while one member voted not opposed to the nomination.

"A minority concluded that the candidate is not qualified, not because of doubts as to his professional competence and integrity, but because of his concerns as to his judicial temperament, his compassion, open mindedness, his sensitivity to the rights of women and minority persons or groups and comparatively extreme views respecting constitutional principles or their application," Mr. Tyler said.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, a South Carolina Republican who supports Mr. Bork, said the objections were based on ideology, not on legal qualifications, in violation of ABA guidelines.

Mr. Bork, a 60-year-old conservative U.S. appeals court judge, finished five days of testimony before the committee on Saturday, telling senators he favoured judicial restraint but supports civil rights for women and minorities.

The United States did not replace its outgoing ambassador to Warsaw in 1983 and imposed sanctions in response to the suppression of the Solidarity trade union under martial law. Since then, the United States has been

M'Bow could still bid for UNESCO job

PARIS (R) — UNESCO's Director-General, Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, could still bid for a new six-year term despite charges of bad management plaguing his administration, according to delegates who vote on the agency's leadership next month.

But the Senegalese official would face strong challenges from two candidates favoured by the West, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahazada Yaqub Khan and Spanish biocchemist Federico Mayor.

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U.S., Poland expected to exchange envoys soon

WARSAW (R) — Poland and the United States are soon expected to exchange ambassadors, restoring full diplomatic relations for the first time in four years, Western diplomats in Warsaw have said.

They said an announcement could be expected ahead of a visit to Poland later this week by U.S. Vice-President George Bush, the highest-ranking U.S. administration official to come here in 10 years.

The United States did not replace its outgoing ambassador to Warsaw in 1983 and imposed sanctions in response to the suppression of the Solidarity trade union under martial law. Since then, the United States has been

represented at charge d'affaires level.

Similarly, Poland's Washington embassy has been run at charge d'affaires level since previous Ambassador Romanul Spasowski was expelled from Poland in December 1981. Polish authorities have since sentenced Mr. Spasowski to death in absentia.

Last February, U.S. President Reagan lifted sanctions and restored preferential trading status for Polish goods on U.S. markets, following Poland's release last year of all officially-acknowledged political prisoners.

All that remained to mark a full return to normal relations

was an announcement on an exchange of ambassadors, but both sides blamed each other for the delay.

Government spokesman Jerzy Urban recently said that Mr. Bush's visit would contribute to the full normalisation of U.S.-Polish relations. Asked whether an exchange of ambassadors was linked to the visit, he hinted:

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'Explosion not iceberg sank Titanic'

PARIS (R) — Divers who recovered valuables from the Titanic have discovered a previously unknown hole in the hull giving rise to a theory that an explosion and not an iceberg sank the liner everyone thought was unsinkable. A French television channel, La Cinq, said on Sunday a coal storage room fire that the crew kept secret from passengers released gas which ignited when the liner hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic on its maiden voyage in 1912. But Titanic expedition leader Ivon Rowarch, whose team returned with photographs of the breach, told Reuters he believed the French television channel had reached its conclusions too quickly. "I cannot confirm their theory," said Rowarch. "We don't have enough information. It will take long work with experts to confirm if it was an explosion that caused the loss of the Titanic. I can confirm only that we discovered a previously unknown breach in the hull of the ship. La Cinq (Channel Five) reporter Ivan Brazov said the fire had been burning when the liner sailed and the shock of the collision with the iceberg caused a spark which ignited gas fumes. The blast ripped out water-tight walls in the ship's hold and creating the newly discovered hole in the hull. The liner's officers had kept the fire secret from passengers in the belief that it could be put out, he said. Rowarch said the cache of jewellery and other objects recovered from the Titanic had been delivered on Sunday to the French electricity utility EDF laboratories where they will be given electrolysis treatment for preservation.

Police find hoard of stolen art works

MARSEILLE, France (R) — French police investigating international art thefts said on Monday they had discovered more than 1,000 stolen paintings, furniture and other art works in a three-storey warehouse in southern France. Most of the works of art, which included paintings by the 18th-century French painters Watteau and Greuze, appeared to have been stolen from southern French chateaux and from other European countries including Italy and Belgium, they added. Police said they had arrested several people but gave no details. They have so far only traced the owners of just one work of art — a Louis XV commode stolen from a private residence in the town of Carpentras in southern France.

Convicted killer executed in U.S.

JACKSON, Georgia (AP) — Timothy W. McCorquodale was electrocuted Monday for the 1974 torture-murder of a runaway teen-age girl, a murder which he claimed he could not remember. McCorquodale, 35, was the fifth man to be executed in Georgia this year, said prison system spokesman John Siler. He was convicted of raping, torturing and then breaking the neck of a 17-year-old girl he had seen talking to a black man. McCorquodale and the victim were both white. A request for clemency from the State Board of Pardons and Paroles was rejected at mid-afternoon Monday, shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court, on a 6-2 vote, turned down one of the two appeals before it. Later Monday, by the same 6-2 vote, the high court rejected McCorquodale's final appeal — a challenge of the 11th U.S. circuit court of appeals' refusal Sunday to stay the execution. McCorquodale was the 93rd prisoner to be put to death in the United States since the Supreme Court cleared the way for states to resume capital punishment in 1976.

Jealous farmer beheads wife, her lover

JAKARTA (R) — An eastern Java farmer who caught his wife and her lover in a tryst decapitated them both with a sickle and then brought the heads to his village chief, police said on Tuesday. The 35-year-old farmer, identified as San, calmly tied the heads together with a strip of bamboo and surrendered to the authorities in Probolinggo on Friday, a police spokesman in the city said. San was walking home from a rice field through a wooded area carrying his harvesting sickle when he unexpectedly came upon his wife Sulatri, 25, and her lover Mishadi on the ground in a naked embrace, the spokesman said. In April, another farmer crazed by a month-long fast hacked 18 people to death and injured 14 with a sickle near Probolinggo. He later hanged himself after digging up his dead mother and gnawing on her bones.

Viscount Linley banned from driving

LONDON (R) — Viscount Linley, Queen Elizabeth's nephew, was on Monday banned from driving for six months and fined £100 (£165) for speeding on a British motorway. Princess Margaret's son, who admitted driving at 98 mph (156 kph) on June 10, was found guilty of exceeding the maximum 70 mph (112 kph) British speed limit. With two previous speeding convictions, he was disqualified from driving for six months. Convicting him, a magistrate said: "I think it is fair to say your record is not a enviable one. Speeding, we know is difficult to avoid in certain circumstances but you, in particular, I think, have a duty to demonstrate to other youngsters respect for the law."

Parkinson's daughter held on drug charge

LONDON (R) — The daughter of Cecil Parkinson, one of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's favourite cabinet members, was charged with possessing cocaine, police said. Mary Parkinson, 27, unemployed, was ordered to appear in court on Sept. 28 charged with possessing 278 milligrammes of cocaine at a flat in West London and failing to answer to police bail. Parkinson was reappointed to the cabinet as energy minister in June, four years after he resigned in a haze of publicity about an affair with his secretary, who bore his child.

Man neglects to claim lottery award

VALLETTA (R) — Procrastination, the thief of time, has also stolen some money — nearly \$160,000 from some unlucky Maltese who neglected to claim a lottery win. The top prize in the Mediterranean island's state lottery was drawn last June and the lucky — now unlucky — winner failed to claim it by the time limit of Sept. 7. The prize is now forfeit. A fifth of it will go to charity and the rest will be added to the prize fund in the next draw later this month.

Soviet toys have low quality, poor taste

MC COW (AP) — Dolls whose hair falls out or whose legs don't move. Chemistry sets that can send a budding young scientist to the hospital. A toy camel that, for no apparent reasons, has stripes like a zebra. Such, Pravda has lamented, are some of the poorly designed and shoddily manufactured toys being created for Soviet girls and boys. "You rarely find so much junk, lack of taste and technical ineptitude as you do in the toy sector," the Communist Party daily said. Production of toys, like the consumer sector as a whole, suffered for decades from rapid industrialisation, building of dams and factories and the production of steel, cement and electricity. Pravda, whose columns are more commonly devoted to arms control or economics, said toys had a serious side. "In essence, all of us who are now adults, even the most important and serious among us, began with toys," wrote Columnist V. Prokhorov. "For example, a battle-grizzled military commander can trace his glorious biography back to the manoeuvres he made with units of pewter toy soldiers." Sadly, Pravda said, there are no longer enough pewter soldiers being made to satisfy the country's "future generals." Moscow's major toy emporium, called Children's World and located across the street from KGB headquarters, is jammed at all hours with parents and youngsters picking through a selection that seems skimpy to Western visitors. Board games like Tank Breakthrough are made of cheap cardboard. Metal models of mobile rocket launchers and trucks often have jagged metal edges that need to be filed down. A mass-produced Cinderella doll has one leg longer than the other. "What happened to you, poor girl?" Pravda asked. "What will the prince think?"

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK1064 ♣K985 ♢Q10762

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♥ ?

What action do you take?
A—If you are playing negative doubles, you would try that. If not, you have no safe bid available—your void in partner's suit makes any action fraught with danger. Pass, and see how the auction develops.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠7 ♣K106 ♢AQ983 ♣AQ106

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♥ 2 ♥ Pass

What do you bid now?
A—Your hand has improved radically with the auction, and no heart raise will do it justice. Start by bidding three clubs and then raise hearts next to complete a picture of your hand.

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ98 ♣7 ♢AKQJ6 ♣AQ1093

The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass Pass 1 ♥

What action do you take?
A—You have just about the best hand at the table, and you must tell partner about that. Redouble. Don't worry about your heart shortage, you have enough high-card values to see partner through at that contract should it get passed out. It is crucial to tell partner to let the next bid come around to you.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AKJ98 ♣7 ♢AKQJ6 ♣AQ1093

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass

What do you bid now?
A—Partner's reverse shows a good hand, but with so much of your values in the unbid spades suit you can't be sure of the potential of the combined holding. Jump to three no trump. That not only tells partner you have a good hand, but alerts him to the fact that a goodly portion of your strength is in spades. He will be better placed to decide whether or not to bid on.